

Introduction

The book of Daniel is vital to understanding the book of Revelation. This is particularly true for the vision of the Beast of Revelation 17.

This lesson series looks at the information found in Daniel needed to understand this vision.

Bringing it all together: how Daniel sheds light on the Beast of Revelation 13/17

- Daniel shows several times that a single prophetic symbol can stand for more than one thing (king/kingdom, a series of kings, two people groups that form a single kingdom, a people united in one kingdom and its divided successor kingdoms).

Applying this principle to Revelation 13/17 (and in light of what is learned from Daniel) shows that the Beast is all of the following:

- A succession of kingdoms ending in a future kingdom
- The future kingdom in that succession
- A man, the ruler of the future kingdom (*see previous lesson for details for this and the previous two points*)
- The world-wide authority of that ruler that extends beyond his kingdom
 - As seen in Daniel 7, the Antichrist has a kingdom that exists alongside other kingdoms (Dan 7.11-12).
 - However, Revelation 13 indicates that the Antichrist has worldwide authority (Rev 13.3,7-8,12,16-17).
 - The details of the two passages actually support each other and together provide a little more detail on the geopolitics of the Tribulation.
 - Although the first three beasts of Daniel 7 are distinct kingdoms from the fourth, there is also a statement that the fourth “will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it” (Dan 7.23).
 - The whole earth would include the other three kingdoms.
 - The symbolic description of the beast in Revelation 13.2 has connections to those used in Daniel 7.
 - “And the beast which I saw was like a leopard” connects to the third beast in Daniel 7.6, the winged leopard
 - “and his feet were like those of a bear” connects to the second beast in Daniel 7.5, the bear
 - “and his mouth like the mouth of a lion” connects to the first beast in Daniel 7.4, the lion with eagle wings
 - Absent the symbolic details of the first three beasts from Daniel 7, Revelation 13.2’s description would be a complete mystery.

- Woven together, we can see that the kingdom of the Antichrist will assert authority over other kingdoms.
- Daniel 11.40-44 provides additional details of the Antichrist's warfare with and domination over other nations. While the Antichrist's economic authority and religious following is worldwide, military conflict will characterize his time in power.
- Information learned in Daniel also reinforces what is taught about the Revelation 13/17 beast's connection to the angelic order.
 - Revelation 12 describes a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns (12:3). The dragon is identified as Satan (12:9). Alone, the seven head/ten horn commonality between the dragon and the beast would be enough to suggest that the shared pattern points to Satan being a force behind the empires in view.
 - This conclusion complements what Daniel 10 reveals about evil angelic powers referred to by the terms "prince of Persia" and "prince of Greece."
 - Together they provide a glimpse behind the curtain of our world, revealing that Satan and a hierarchy of fallen angels seek to affect mankind via some kind of relationship with national entities (c.f. Eph 6:12, Col 1:13, Isa 14:12, Mat 4:8,9, 1Jo 5:19).