

INTRODUCTION

The fourth and last kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's vision turns out to be more viscous than the kingdoms before it. No beast in the animal world is suited to portray the animalistic fashion by which this empire will wreck havoc upon the world. This kingdom represents man as he descends further into the depths of his depraved rule over the world. Keil and Delitsch notes about this beast:

"Its terribleness and its strength, breaking in pieces and destroying all things, and the fact that no beast is named to which it can be likened, represent it as different from all the beasts that went before." -- Keil Delitzsch

We will consider this beast over the next several messages and consider its impact upon God's plan and purpose for end times.

- I. TWO DIVISIONS WERE PROPHESED FOR THE FOURTH KINGDOM. Dan. 2:40
 - A. The first division was to be a kingdom of with the qualities of iron.
 1. The fourth kingdom is compared to iron. Dan. 2:40
 - a) It is said to be "strong as iron".
 - (1) "Strong" is the Aramaic taqquph -- ***mighty, to be endued with strength similar to that of iron.***
 - (2) Iron "breaketh into pieces and subdueth all things" -- "***iron is causing to shatter and is beating down the whole thing.***" -- literal interpretation -- David Spurbeck
 - b) The comparison to iron is symbolic of what will happen with the fourth kingdom.
 - (1) It shall "break in pieces" -- chashal -- "***crushed; to be shattered, fall to pieces.***" -- Strong's lexicon cf. Dan. 6:24 (of the lions crushing the bones of the enemies of Daniel)
 - (2) It shall "bruise" -- rea -- "shatters" -- Strong's lexicon
 2. The second division would be a kingdom that had a mixture of iron and clay.
 - a) The kingdom will be divided as two feet are. Vs. 41
 - (1) Part (the "min" preposition used to note a partitive aspect of the image -- part of the feet and toes that Nebuchadnezzar saw were "of potters clay" -- chasaph -- potsherd -- ***clay used to form vessels for gardening; eating*** etc..

- (2) Part of the feet and toes were part of iron.
- (3) "The kingdom shall be 'divided' -- pelag -- **separated into parts**. cf.Gen. 10:25 (of the dividing of the continents) vs 41
- (4) Though the kingdom is divided into two there shall be in it "the strength of the iron". Vs. 41
 - (a) "Shall be in it" is better translated "**shall proceed to be**", translating the verb havah in the pael. Cf. Ezra 7;23 (of wrath)
 - (b) There shall be the "strength (firmness) of the iron"
 - (i) The iron will be "mixed" -- arab -- "**to be combined**" -- Strong's lexicon -- with clay. cf. vs. 43
 - (ii) "Miry" is used to indicate the common nature of the substance. Cf. vs. 43
 - (c) The significance of the mixture is captured by Keil and Deil. in their commentary noting that the mixture "**signifies the unnatural division arising from inner disharmony or discord.**"

B. The kingdom shall be "partly strong and partly broken". Vs. 42

- 1. "Strong: is taqqiyph is an adjective describing the majestic nature of an entity. Cf. Dan. 4:3 (used to describe the wonders of God)
- 2. "Broken" is better translated "brittle" -- tebar -- **that which is fragile or easy to break into pieces**.
- 3. The significance of the iron mixed with miry clay is explained. Vs.43
 - a) "They" -- the feet and toes as symbolizing the kings of the empire. Cf. vs. 44
 - b) "Shall mingle themselves" -- arab -- to mix
 - c) "Seed of men" is zera -- **posterity; offspring** of enash -- **commoners; the hoi paloi**. Cf. Ez. 6:11 (used of any person)
 - d) The iron and clay will not "cleave" -- "**to stick, as things that are glued together, as clods of earth.**" -- Wilson's Word Studies

II. THE CHARACTER OF THE FOURTH KINGDOM IS WAS SUCH THAT IT IS IDENTIFIED AS A DREADFUL BEAST LACKING ANY ANIMAL COMPARISON. Dan. 7:7, 19,23

A. The fourth kingdom is seen as "diverse" from the first three kingdoms. Dan. 7:19,23

- 1. "Diverse" is used to note the Aramaic word shena -- which is used here of something that is caused to be changed or altered; transformed from a

previous state. Cf. Ez. 6:11 (of the changing of a decree); Dan. 3:19 (of the visage of Nebuchadnezzar)

2. The sight of the beast is described. Dan. 7:7
3. He was “dreadful” -- “dechal” -- an aramaic term used to describe that which is to be feared. Cf. Dan. 2:31 (Nebuchadnezzar’s response to the image he saw)
4. He was “terrible” another aramaic term emethan which is used only in this context to note that which caused terror.
 - a) A form of the word is used in the book of Exodus to note fear, or terror. Cf. Ex. 23:27; Ps. 88:15
 - b) The word is used in Exodus 15:16 to note fear or terror.
5. The image was “strong”
 - a) The word taqqiph -- **mighty, having the power to dominate**. Cf. Ez. 4:20 (used of the strength of the kings over Jerusalem)
 - b) The adjective yattiyr note the extreme amount of strength that it possesses.

B. The destruction that the beast imposed is seen in its teeth. Vs. 7

1. It’s teeth were of iron.
 - a) “Teeth” (shen) is used in Scripture of military might. Cf. Dan. 7:5 (of the second beast with three ribs between its teeth).
 - b) The comparison to “iron” is
2. With it’s teeth it:
 - a) “Devoured” -- akal in the Aramaic -- **“to eat up or to devour; to consume”**. Cf. Dan. 7:23 (it is said the kingdom will devour all the earth).
 - b) The beast will dominate by the force of its power. vs. 23
 - (1) It shall devour “the whole earth”.
 - (a) The phrase “the whole earth” is used 28 times in Scripture.
 - (b) The phrase is:
 - (i) Kol -- all
 - (ii) Erets -- earth.
 - (c) Other Scripture note the usage to be similar to oikomene in the Greek -- the inhabited earth -- every place where men dwell. Cf. Gen. 11:21 (of the whole earth being of one language) Ez. 35:14 (of the whole earth rejoicing);
 - (2) It shall “tread it down” (dush) --to trample down.
 - (3) It shall “break it in pieces” (deqaq) -- to cause something to be torn apart from the whole. Cf. Dan. 6:24 (of the lions ripping bodies to pieces)

- C. The The leaders of the beast are considered. Dan. 7:8
1. Ten horns characterized the fourth beast. Vs. 7
 - a) The ten horns are part of the head of the beast. Dan. 7:20
 - b) The ten horns are seen in Scripture as the ten kings that shall rise out of the kingdom. Dan. 7:34 cf. Rev. 13:1; 17:12,16 (is linked to the confederation in place during the Tribulation Period)
 2. A little horn stood out from all the horns. Dan. 7:9, 8:9
 - a) His eyes were noted as being that of man.
 - b) His mouth was distinguished.
 - c) He came out of one of the four kingdoms resulting from the breakup of the Grecian empire.

CONCLUSION