

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

- Sometimes, we need to see something from different perspectives to see the whole.
- We can do this in Daniel to get a more expansive understanding of the future.
- Let's make a composite picture of the future.

FIRST VISION – STATUE

Daniel 2

GLIMPSE OF OUR FUTURE #1

- Nebuchadnezzar had a nightmare.
- Not one Babylonian wise-guy could interpret it.
- Nebuchadnezzar threatens staff with death.
- Daniel secured time to request compassion from the “God of heaven.”

GLIMPSE OF OUR FUTURE #1

- God revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel in a night vision.
- Daniel came, via Arioch, to Nebuchadnezzar.
- He explained God's motive (reveal future) and then perfectly recounted the king's dream.

GLIMPSE OF OUR FUTURE #1

- Nebuchadnezzar saw a large statue.
- It was composed of four layers, gold at the top, then silver, then bronze, then iron, which was mixed with china in the toes.
- A stone struck and crushed the feet which, in turn, set off a chain reaction.

GLIMPSE OF OUR FUTURE #1

- The gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay were reduced to dust particles and completely dissipated by the wind. No trace left.
- The stone became a massive mountain.
- Daniel explained the meaning behind the dream.

GLIMPSE OF OUR FUTURE #1

- Each layer represents a phase of world history.
- The last phase has two parts, iron followed by iron mixed with ceramic.
- This last phase (iron & clay) is yet future for us.
- Here is what Daniel reveals of our future.

1 Daniel 2:41: *“And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.”*

- A final iteration of the iron phase will mix iron with fired clay / ceramic – divided but still strong.

CONCERNING LEGS AND TOES

2 Daniel 2:42-43: *“And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.”*

CONCERNING LEGS AND TOES

- This future kingdom will be a league of 10 nations (perhaps like NATO, G7, or BRICS).
- Some will be strong like iron; some will be brittle like ceramic.
- Some sort of consolidation will bring these two groups of people together.

CONCERNING LEGS AND TOES

- But the dominators and brits won't be truly blended and bonded together: Think of this as some sort of superficial “oneness.”
- This league of 10 nations will be in power when they are completely crushed and replaced by “the stone cut out of the mountain without hands.”

- 3 Daniel 2:45: *“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”*
- “Those kings” suggests that the iron and clay toes are rulers.

GLIMPSE #1 – SUMMARY

- Prior to the establishment of the “everlasting kingdom,” a 10 nation confederation will exert its sovereignty over men.
- This confederation will not be a company of equals. Some will be strong, others fragile.
- There will be some attempts to create a genetic bond between these two groups.

GLIMPSE #1 – SUMMARY

- But just as iron and clay do not bond with each other, whatever “unity” is established between the iron and clay will be no true bonding between these two types of nations.

4 **Summary: Look for a union of ten nations who are not true equals.**



SECOND VISION – FOUR BEASTS

Daniel 7

- In the first half of chapter 7, Daniel had a vision of the future. He saw a succession of four great kingdoms (depicted as beasts).
- **Something about the fourth beast produced distress and alarm.**
- He sought additional information from an angelic bystander who said...

5 Daniel 7:23–25 – “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. 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. ➤

5 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.”

1. The fourth beast is a kingdom.
2. This kingdom will shift the paradigm of what it means to be a kingdom.

3. This kingdom will be global in influence.
4. This kingdom will be driven by consumption and domination.
5. This kingdom will initially consist of a ten kingdom confederation.
6. At some point, a new king will rise to power, defeat three and take the lead of the whole.

7. This upstart king will actually declare war against God and any who align with God.
8. He will effectively overwhelm the saints.
9. He will alter the calendar in ways that support his anti-God campaign.
10. He will redefine right and wrong, ie, he will advocate pride for things God condemns.

11. Although this king will “rewrite the book” on time, his ascendancy will be limited to 3½ years.
12. His reign and kingdom will be decisively and overwhelmingly defeated by the saints and the Son of Man.

GLIMPSE #2 – SUMMARY

- 6 **Daniel 7: Look for a God-hating upstart to defeat three of these nations and launch a 3½ year unprecedented and prevailing campaign against the saints.**



THIRD VISION – RAM & GOAT

Daniel 8

- Daniel 8 concerns a king from the last days of Greece, an ego-driven ruler intent on dominating God’s people.
- This king, Antiochus IV, will later (Dan. 11) be identified as a preview of what the ultimate God-hating ruler looks like.
- He will “oppose the Prince of princes.”

- His ascendancy will only last 1,150 days.
- He will be broken albeit not by human agency.

7 Daniel 8: Look for someone who reflects but surpasses Antiochus Epiphanes in arrogance against God and animosity toward God's people.

- Note: Be encouraged, God can prevail.

FOURTH VISION – 70 SEVENS

Daniel 9

GOD'S ANSWER!

- Daniel was praying in the light of Jeremiah 29:10.
- Jeremiah suggested that the Babylon chapter would be over soon.
- Gabriel came in response to Daniel's prayer to explain how the answer to his prayer involves far more than a mere physical return to Israel.

GABRIEL'S REVELATION

- The complete answer to Daniel's prayer would not be fully realized in 70 years but in 70 "sevens."
- These "sevens" are seven year periods.
- The last "seven" concerns what is in the future for us.

THE LAST SEVEN

8 Daniel 9:27 – “And he (**the prince to come**) will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

THE LAST SEVEN

- The “one week” is the final seven years.
- A treaty will be established at the start.
- But at the 3½ year mark, the treaty will be broken, worship of God will be halted and replaced by something abominable, and unprecedented desolation will be unleashed.

THE LAST SEVEN

- It is fixed and certain that the prince-to-come’s plans will fail utterly.
- In that moment, at the end of 70 sevens, Daniel’s prayer will be fully answered.
- (By the way, this is when Daniel will rise! Daniel 12:13 – last verse!)

GLIMPSE #1-4 – SUMMARY

9 **Daniel 9: Look for a prince to come who breaks a treaty after 3½ years, erects something abominable to launch a devastating campaign against the saints.**

- The final vision (in 11:1-12:4) gives us our most detailed look at this future prince.
- We learn more about his philosophy of rule and his specific movements and campaigns.

FIFTH VISION – BIG PICTURE

Daniel 10-12

THE FINAL VISION

- Daniel had been praying for three weeks.
- An angel appeared to him and provided a 90 point historical checklist of coming events pertinent to Israel.
- These 90 points can be verified.
- This vision included a close up of Antiochus IV.

VSS. 21-35 – **HEART** OF ANTIOCHUS IV

- He is a despicable manipulator working a cunning plan for personal advancement.
- He uses affirmation and rewards to dissuade others from living in a way that pleases God.
- He replaces worship of God with worship of himself using an idol as his centerpiece.

VSS. 21-35 – **HEART** OF ANTIOCHUS IV

- But then, the angel looks beyond Antiochus IV to the last king who will operate from his playbook.
- This provides our most comprehensive description yet.
- Here is what we have learned of his heart:

THE HEART OF ANTICHRIST

- He genuinely believes that he is superior to every other so-called god, including the One True God!
- His “god” is his capacity to control others and he spares no cost to support his “control god.”
- He requires all men to worship him as their god.

THE HEART OF ANTICHRIST

- He declares worship of the one true God a capital offense.
- He has the means at his disposal to identify, isolate, and confront those who refuse to recant their belief and trust in God.
- He rewards his sycophants with honor, position, and land.

THE “ACCOMPLISHMENTS” OF ANTICHRIST

- He will overwhelmingly defeat countries to the north and south.
- He will occupy Jerusalem.
- He will conquer and plunder Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia.

THE “ACCOMPLISHMENTS” OF ANTICHRIST

- Threats from the North and East will present themselves.
- He will mobilize sufficient firepower to overwhelm the opposition.
- But his demise will come and no one will help him.

10

IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

- Where a king who deems himself worthy to take god’s place is in power.
- Where he is the victor in every battle.
- Where people who worship God or serve Jesus have no place.
- **This is the world that is coming.**

GLIMPSE #1-5 – SUMMARY

- 11 **Daniel 2: Look for a union of ten nations who are not true equals.**
- 12 **Daniel 7: Look for a God-hating upstart to defeat three of these nations and launch a 3½ year unprecedented and prevailing campaign against the saints.**

13

Daniel 8: Look for someone who reflects but surpasses Antiochus Epiphanes in arrogance against God and animosity toward God’s people.

14

Daniel 9: Look for a prince to come who breaks a treaty after 3½ years and erects something abominable launching a devastating campaign against the saints.

15 **Daniel 11: Look for someone who establishes an expanding Middle Eastern empire capable of eliminating any who do not worship him or his “idol.”**

- Matthew 24:1-25:46 and Revelation 5:1-20:6 provide a wealth of information that adds to what we have learned from Daniel.

- Daniel provides the starting template – Jesus and John add additional detail.
- Why? What is Jesus’ reason for doing this.
- 24:4 – “See to it that no one misleads you.”
- 24:6 – “See that you are not frightened.”
- 24:16 – “Flee to the mountains.”

- 24:20 – “Pray that your flight may not be in winter.”
- 24:23, 26 – “Don’t believe false prophets.”
- 24:25 – “Behold, I have told you in advance.”
- 24:32 – “Learn the parable of the fig tree.”
- 24:32 – “When you see all these things, recognize that He is near.”

- 16 Matthew 24:42–44 – “Therefore **be on the alert**, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But **be sure of this**, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason **you also must be ready**; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

17

THE SMART PLAY

- **Live each day in a state of readiness to meet the Lord.**
- **Live each day prepared to stay true to Jesus no matter what the world dishes out.**
- **Live each day unafraid because you know how your story ends.**