### Daniel

## Chapter 7

1It was during the 1st year of the reign of BelShazzar (the king of the Chaldeans) that DaniEl saw a vision in his head as he was lying in his bed, and this is what he wrote about the things that he saw:  
  
  
 2‘In my vision during the night, I, DaniEl, saw the four winds blowing hard and stirring up the Great Sea. 3And four large animals came up out of the sea that were different from each other.  
  
 4‘The first one looked like a female lion, and she had the wings of an eagle. But as I watched, her wings were plucked off and she was lifted away from the earth… Then she stood on feet that were like those of a man, and the heart of a man was given to her.  
  
 5‘I also saw a second wild animal that looked like a bear. It was lying on one side and there were three ribs sticking out of its mouth from between its teeth. Then it was told to get up and devour much flesh.  
  
 6‘{Look!} I also saw another wild animal that looked like a leopard, but it had four wings [like those of] of a bird on its back, and it had four heads. It was also given great power.  
  
 7‘And as I was watching, I saw a fourth wild animal that was astonishing, frightening, and huge. It had teeth of iron that were mighty for eating and crushing, and it trampled the others with its feet. It was very different from the wild animals that had come before it, and this one had ten horns.  
  
 8‘Then as I was looking at its horns, another small horn came up in the midst of them, which pushed out the three horns that were in front of it. {Look!} This horn had the eyes of a man, and it started saying grandiose things.  
  
 9‘Well, as I kept on watching, a throne appeared upon which the Most Ancient One seated Himself. His clothes were as white as snow, the hair on His head was like pure wool, His throne was like flames of fire, and it had wheels that looked like flames. 10Also, a river of fire shot out from before Him, and there were millions that were serving Him and tens of millions more that were standing before Him.  
  
 ‘Then a judgment seat was brought forward and scrolls were opened. 11And as I was watching, I heard a voice coming from the [animal’s] horn that was speaking those grandiose words.  
  
 ‘However, after that, the wild animal was condemned and put to death, then its body was thrown into a blazing fire. 12And after that happened, the rulership of the other wild animals was returned to them, and their lives were extended for a time and a season.  
  
 13‘Then as I was watching the things in the vision that night, {Look!} someone like a Son of Man arrived riding upon the clouds of the skies, and he went up in front of the Most Ancient One, 14who then gave him rulership, honor, and a Kingdom, so that from then on, all the peoples, tribes, and languages were to serve him. And [he was told that] the authority he was given was to last throughout the ages… It would never pass away or be destroyed.  
  
 15‘Well at that, the spirit within me, DaniEl, shuddered (as often happens to me), because the visions that I saw in my head were so disturbing. 16So I went up to the one who was standing there, because I wanted him to explain the meanings of all these things… And he spoke to me plainly, making the interpretation very clear.  
  
 17[‘He said]:  
  
 ‘These four great beasts are four kingdoms,  
 Which will arise on the earth…  
 18But thereafter, they’ll be taken away.  
  
 ‘Then this [Son of Man] will take over the kingdom  
 Of the holy ones of the Most High…  
 Throughout the age and throughout ages of ages,  
 He will be the one who’ll rule.’  
  
 19‘Then I wanted to find out more about the fourth wild animal, because it was so different from the other wild animals and it was so frightening because of its iron teeth and brass claws that it used to eat, crush, and trample.  
  
 20‘I also wanted to learn more about the ten horns that were on its head, and about the [horn] that arose and shook off three of the [horns]… The one who had eyes and a mouth that spoke grandiose things, because it was the most disturbing of all the things that I saw. 21For as I was watching, that horn attacked the holy ones and conquered them.  
  
 22‘But then the Most Ancient One came and gave these Holy Ones His most favorable judgment, and they were able to take over their Kingdom.  
  
 23‘Then he told me this:  
  
 ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom  
 That will also rule over the earth.  
 It will be greater than all other kingdoms.  
 For, it’ll devour all of the lands…  
 It’ll trample upon them and cut them to bits.  
  
 24‘His ten horns are ten kings who’ll come,  
 And after them, another will arise  
 That will conquer the previous kings…  
 And three of them will be humbled.  
  
 25‘Then, he will speak grandiose words  
 And mislead the Holy Ones of the Most High.  
 He’ll choose to change times and laws  
 For 3-1/2 times.  
  
 26‘But thereafter, the judgment seat will arrive,  
 And his position of rule will be changed…  
 He’ll be removed from view and destroyed  
 Until the end has arrived.  
  
 27‘Then the Kingdom, the authority, and the greatness  
 Of all the kings under the heavens  
 Will be given to the Holy One of the Most High,  
 Whose Kingdom will last throughout the ages…  
 Then these kings will serve and obey Him.’  
  
 28‘Well, that’s when [the dream] ended. But these thoughts disturbed me so much that they even changed my appearance. Therefore, I (DaniEl) remembered them and kept them in my heart.’