

Daniel 7.1-14

Apocalypse: Hope or Horror?



Last Sunday > Great Blessing HEAR Testimonies of FAITH – ZGC Deacons
 REJOICE that All KNOW Jesus Christ as SAVIOR and LORD
 NOT One of their Stories of SALVATION was SAME as ANOTHER!
 Very Clear > God NOT Use COOKIE-CUTTER to SAVE His Elect
 Not ONE of their Stories of how they came to FAITH > Exactly like ANOTHER
 God Calls IN Every Language, Culture, Stage of Life, Circumstance, Situation
 WONDROUS & Beautiful DIVERSITY in God’s Time & Plan DELIVERANCE
 Step into Daniel 7 > God SAVES in different Ways/ God SPEAKS in diff. Ways
 Only ONE Savior & One BIBLE > Living Book is Filled with Dynamic Truths
 Many Genres, Styles of Literature, Powerful Stories, Poetry, Prophecy, Laws
 All DECLARE the GLORY of our GOD and His CHRIST our SAVIOR

‘*Apocalypse*’ – Greek word for ‘*reveal*’ i.e. ‘Revelation’ (Latin word)

Word coined from Revelation 1.1 APPLIED to all Apocalyptic Bible Literature
 Type of Literature found Daniel 7-12, parts of Zechariah, Ezekiel, Revelation...

FIVE Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature in Bible -

1. Creatures – Familiar Things look Unfamiliar

v. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

Lion, Eagle, Bear, Leopard >> GREAT BEASTS – DISTORTED BLEND

Creatures of APOCALYPSE are SCARY HYBRIDS > Shocking, Scary
PRE-TEENS Understand Apocalypse better than Me: Vivid IMAGINATION
Pre-Teens live in world of Aliens, Asteroids, and MUTANT Dust Bunnies

BEASTS are DISTORTIONS of God's CREATION

HEBREW World is one of ORDER – Things MADE According to their KIND

trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, *each according to its kind*. And God saw that it was good...So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, *according to their kinds*...

God made the beasts of the earth *according to their kinds* and the livestock *according to their kinds*...
Genesis 1.11,12,21,24,25

MOSES commanded ISRAELITES who were Entering PROMISED LAND...

“You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole yield be forfeited, the crop that you have sown and the yield of the vineyard. You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together.
Deuteronomy 22.9-11

CREATURES are MORE than just STRANGE, they are plain WRONG!

More Familiar to the ORIGINAL Audience – Donkeys and Elephants in USA



As UNEARTHED many STATUES that were
 NUMEROUS in all of BABYLON
 NOT Surprising Daniel was Seeing these in
 Dreams

Not Surprising Apocalyptic Literature
 TO God's People in Bablyon – Daniel, Ezekiel
 Land and Culture filled with Such Images & Ideas
 that were common to that culture.

2. Time – Eras and Epochs described by Days and Years

If ask WHEN? Answer NOT on Clock, or Calendar, but in CENTURIES

Apocalyptic TIME is Measured – Hours, Years, Thousands

PURPOSE of Most Time References is to GIVE an IMPRESSION > Long, Short
 Seeing AGES, ERA, EPOCHS > Time and Time Again – until He Comes Again

NOT NUMBERS in Phone Book > POETRY // All TRUE, NOT ACCURATE >

Caution and reserve are virtues in the interpretation of apocalyptic.

Tremper Longman III

Do NOT Attempt to UNWEAVE the RAINBOW – or Explain It – ENJOY IT!

1st Xtian Book I ever Read: 'Late Great Planet Earth' set DATE in 1980's

Author – Hal Lindsey made MATH Formulas of Apocalyptic Numbers

Christians in US produced TRACT > 88 Reasons for 88: 2nd Coming 1988

Meaning is not Apocalyptic Time is Not Chronological > Moral & Spiritual
 Apocalypse is about FAITHFULNESS not FIGURING out DATES, TIMES
 Apocalyptic Literature speaks BROADLY across the whole SWEEP of History

3. Numbers – Meaning not Mathematics

v. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand
 thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him

If Apocalyptic NUMBERS are meant to more of IMPRESSION than Information
 VIP on STEROIDS > with PAYROLL like that gotta be real HIGH ROLLER

God created world in 6 Days and RESTED on 7th > Completion, Glory

God made Man and Woman on 6th Day > In HIS Image, gave Dominion over All

4 RIVERS flowed in Garden of EDEN to the 4 Corners of Earth

4 Winds that Blew – 4 Beasts Roam Earth – 4 Horsemen Gallop across Centuries

vs. 6,7 behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And
 the beast had four heads...a fourth beast...it had ten horns.

NOT a POLICE ARTIST'S SKETCH or a PHOTOGRAPH > Vision, Dream

World of Apocalypse is HALLOWEEN Every DAY

Numbers NOT Precise but they POINTING to Something

If SEE these Creatures Security CAMERA > Do NOT Buzz into your Apartment

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw
 some of you into prison, that you may be tested and for ten days you will have
 tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life...The one
 who conquers will not be hurt by the second death. Revelation 2.10,11

Jesus words to Faithful church in SMYRNA – Faithful UNTO Death

TEN Days? If were in PRISON wanna know EXACT Meaning...So was it...

When letter Written, Sent, Carried, Delivered? > JUST 10 Days, Gonna Make It!

10 Days then GET RESCUED or 10 Days then GET REDEEMED > Go Home!

Suffering lasts ONLY 10 Days – 10 = Completeness: 10 Commandments

GLORY lasts for 1000 years

This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is a number of a man, and his number is 666. Revelation 13.18

Listening to Christian RADIO – might by Oxymoron – Night Pres Reagan SHOT Preacher quoted VERSE, CONFIDENT Now Understood Ronald Wilson Reagan

6 – Day MAN Created // 3 – Number of TRIUNE God

Man WANTS to BE God but can NEVER BE God, God, God – 777

He will FOREVER ONLY be JUST MAN,MAN,MAN – 666!

4. Scripture interprets Scripture – Less Clear explained by More Clear

Theme of Daniel clearly Established chs 1-6 : God is King over All Nations

Chs 7 – 12 Sing same SONG in whole NEW STYLE from Ballad to the BLUES

Main Message of Each Passage is what it says Right in Immediate CONTEXT

First Question – What is Original Author saying to the Original Audience?

Having Answered Primary Question First > Might be a WIDER Message

BABYLON is Key Theme in Bible from Genesis to Revelation

SON of MAN – becomes Main Thing Jesus calls Himself – 90 X's in Gospels

Answer to Apocalypse NOT in Modern Media but in Ancient Message of God

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

1 Peter 1.10-12

5. Doom and Deliverance – Horror and Hope

Apocalypse describes VIOLENT End of the World

BIBLICAL Apocalyptic Literature: Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Revelation –

People of God have their HOPE & JOY in God > ENDURE will be EXALTED!

IMPACT of Images More POWERFUL to those already Familiar with IMAGES

World in PANIC 1999 > Y2K GLOBAL Computer Crash: Daniel & boys HUH?

ISLAND of PLASTIC Growing and Killing in Middle of PACIFIC Ocean!

Hebrew Homies would ASK - What and Where is the Pacific Ocean?

Need BALANCED Wisdom as Study APOCALYPTIC Literature of BIBLE

One EXTREME – IGNORE It – Don't like Poetry! Too Complicated! Weird!

OTHER Extreme > ABSORBED > Bedroom Apocalyptic Curtains & Bedsheets

Extreme Fascination: Listen Latest Interpretations of Popular Prophecy Teachers

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness
2 Timothy 3.16

LISTEN to BBC - Biblically Balanced Christianity > WHOLE Counsel of GOD

Biblical apocalyptic is a revelation of the ending of this present age, which is an age characterized by conflict, and its replacement is the final age of peace. It shows us ahead of time the end of the kingdoms of this world and their replacement by the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. This revelation is unfolded in complex and mysterious imagery, and has the purpose of comforting and exhorting the faithful.
Iain Duguid

See 2 Main THEMES of our TEXT...

1. Vision of Terror

v. 1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed.

Ch 5 Brief and RANDOM intro to Belshazzar > NOW get Rest of Story

Ch 7 Behind Scenes > from Historical FACTS to UNSEEN Spiritual FORCES

MASKS are REMOVED to See TRUE FACES of GOOD and EVIL

v. 1 Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter.

Babylonian CULTURE Guided by DREAMS that Determined your DESTINY

ALL Babylon had MEANINGFUL DREAMS! // like We have Smart Phones

Chs 1-6 DREAMS of KINGS interpreted by DANIEL

Chs 7-12 DREAMS of DANIEL interpreted by ANGELS

vs. 2,3 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

When HEBREW thot of Someone Coming OUT of Sea –

Was NOT a HOTTIE or a HUNK in a BATHING SUIT

If Coming OUT of SEA – Watch Out!! > Sea PLACE of TURMOIL & FEAR

Enemies Arrive Unexpectedly / Rough Seas / TURBULENCE & TROUBLE

Ah, the thunder of many peoples; they thunder like the thundering of the sea!

Ah, the roar of nations; they roar like the roaring of mighty waters! The nations roar like the roaring of many waters

Isaiah 17.12,13

4 Beasts Comes OUT of the SEA // Just like in the FINAL APOCALYPSE

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 13.1,2

You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. Psalm 89.9

Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.
Psalm 74.12,13

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
Revelation 21.1

NOT mean NO SURFING Lessons in Heaven > No Rebellion, No Disorder
God will RULE in UNRIVALED RIGHTEOUSNESS and GLORY

v. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

Chapter 49 JEREMIAH describes NEB. As a FIERCE LION

Hundreds of Babylonian Statues show King like Lion with Eagles Wings

Ch 4 Neb's GLORIOUS WINGS Plucked – Just MAN who Needed to REPENT

v. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

Beast with VORACIOUS APPETITE – Mouth is FULL & BENT Over to Strike!
EATING and still wants to EAT MORE! --- Hey! I did not know I was in Bible!
LIKE RED Horse of Apocalypse – Lumbering BEAST Kills and DEVOURS

v. 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

LEOPARDS are FAST – Alexander the Great unleashed Blitzkrieg across Asia
LEOPARD on STERIODS --- 4 WINGS like JET ENGINES to FLY Fast & Far
ALEXANDER Died young, Replaced by 4 Generals who Divided his Empire
PROUD Animals of PREY – Lion, Eagle, Bear, Leopard...

POWER Not FROM these Beasts > ON Loan from Sovereign God

“dominion was given to it”

Paul teaches Romans 13 – BEAST of Roman Gov’t > SERVANT of GOD

v. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

ROBO-BEAST so Extremely DISTORTED > TERRIFYING and DREADFUL

Even MORE Terrifying than Beasts 1, 2, & 3... THAT is Saying Something!

ROBO-BEAST – Composite Evil Powers – Kills w/ MOUTH & BIG FEET

v. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

10 HORNS – Horn like RHINO > BLAST like a BATTERING Ram

NOTHING can STAND in Way of this BEASTS ADVANCE – 10 HORNS!!

Then ONE More – Strange and Scary Horn! – LITTLE but with Eyes & Mouth!

Early 1980’s invited to CONFERENCE of Theologians in Africa in NAIROBI

Friends NIGERIAN Prof. > during BREAK > NAIROBI Game Park > Animals

Found CAR drove into GAME Park > Found PRIDE of LIONS right Near Path

Turned OFF Car to Watch – LION walked over JUMPED on Hood of CAR

LOVED It! Taking PICTURES talking to LION – CUTE, FURRY, KITTY Cat!

NIGERIAN Friend FREAKED Out – Screamed, Shouted – Get Out of Here!

To me that LION was PLAYTHING --- to him it was PREDATOR

My NIGERIAN Brother had RIGHT Reaction to Apocalyptic BEASTS

Arm-Chair Theologians STUDY Them, Xtians in Battle are SCARED of them

ENEMIES of God and His People – Bones in MOUTH are SERVANTS of God

Chapter 2 << The God who Reveals >> Chapter 7
 Chapter 3 << The God who Rescues >> Chapter 6
 Chapter 4 << The God who Rules >> Chapter 5

Structure of DANIEL > Link of STATUE in chapter 3 > BEASTS in ch 7

4 Metals / 4 Beasts

Seems like Empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome

4 Metals of Ch 3 GLORIOUS // 4 Beasts of Ch 7 HIDEOUS

v. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

BEASTS are NOT GONE when HUMAN Empires they INHABIT are ENDED
 LIKE Wandering SPIRITS they find ANOTHER Empire or Leader to INVADE

EVIL Beasts get KNOCKED against ROPES but NOT Knocked Out

COLD WAR Child – Nuclear Stand-Off > USA and USSR > then WALL Fell!

PERISTROIKA! Iron Curtain came Down >> World MORE Scary Place Today!

Different Times BEASTS GASPING for BREATH but NOT yet DEAD

We find ourselves on slippery ground when it comes to specific and concrete historical identifications of the imagery of the four beasts...this is an intentional effect of the imagery of the vision. The purpose is not so much about writing history in advance as making a theological statement about the conflict between human evil and good.

Tremper Longman III

FINAL Book of the Bible is STILL TALKING about BABYLON & BEASTS...

“The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise...” Revelation 17.8

VISION of Terror might be Named – Hitler, Stalin, Amin, Kim, or Trump

Might be Economic Collapse in Venezuela or Starvation in Yemen

Might be Called ISIS – Al Quaeda, Al-Shabab, OR BOKO HARAM

Vision of Terror - August 1990 – rushed home from UGANDA

Saw my Dad in lying in his DEATHBED from Cancer – in 4 Days he was Dead

Same VISION of Terror – January 2007 – 1st Time Dr. told me I had CANCER

GOSPEL Workers given 24 hours to Leave country they Consider HOME

Terror when SOMEONE you LOVE Walks AWAY from Faith in True GOD

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10.28

2. Vision of Triumph

v. 9 “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

ABRUPT Transition from SEASIDE COAST to SOLEMN COURTROOM

From the CHAOS of Earth – SCENE Shifts to CALMNESS of Heaven

From 4 Figures of Animals to 2 Human Figures > Even MORE than HUMAN!

ANCIENT of Days – No BEGINNING & No END – Greater than Mortal Beasts

Only time THIS DESCRIPTION of God used in BIBLE – 2 X’s here Daniel 7

God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. Psalm 74.12

PURITY – There are NO STAINS in His Character

WHEELS described by EZEKIEL Surround the Vision of God

MANY THRONES – Apocalypse John sees 24 Elders SEATED Around Throne

Several Time/Directional References – *then I saw, then I looked, as I looked*

ACTIVE VISION – Lots GOING ON at ONCE – Daniel Narrates Movement

Turns to See THIS and then TURNS to See THAT --- Continuous Movement
SIMULTANEOUS Events NOT a SEQUENCE of EVENTS

Revelation 2 & 3 > Jesus SPEAKS to 7 TROUBLED Churches in Asia

Revelation 4 – Door Open in Heaven > Throne of God, Someone Sitting on It

As PETER walked on WATER he Could have Looked at Waves or MASTER

When FEARED Waves he LOST FOCUS on LORD of SEA and SKY

Weakness of Apocalypse – God NOT OLD MAN SITTING IN A CHAIR

Message to God’s PEOPLE – Remain FAITHFUL Despite Appearances

v. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

God of BURNING BUSH – God our REFINING Fire – Sees & Judges All

Nothing can be HIDDEN from God – Surrounded by LOYAL SERVANTS

vs. 11,12 “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

SAME Time God REIGNS Unrivaled on THRONE – Sovereign LORD of All

BLASPHEMY and UNBELIEF TAUNT & 4 Beasts TRUDGE Along

DOMINION is MEASURED and LIMITED but STILL TERRIFYING

DOOM is DECREED but NOT YET DELIVERED

BURNED and BATTERED but NOT Fully Beaten

Like COCK ROACHES that you just CANNOT KILL!

v. 13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

CLOUDS in the BIBLE are CHARIOTS for God > Reveal HIS GLORY

“he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind” Psalm 104.3

Ezekiel described as Son of Man 93 X’s – but Not Once did he RIDE Clouds
CLEAR MESSAGE of Daniel – God ALONE is Sovereign – No Human King

NOW His Sovereign RULE, AUTHORITY, POWER – Given to a MAN!

Who is THIS SON of Man that God is MINDFUL of Him?

He APPROACHES the Ancient of Days > has a RIGHT to Enter His Presence

AND WAS LED into His PRESENCE > As a Servant he Willingly Submits

SCENE of GLORY and ROYALTY – words TOO POOR to Capture it All

2 Divine Figures – Like Ancient of Days and Like a Son of Man

Seeing this secret behind history may not keep God’s people from pain but
should keep them from panic; we may still be fearful but should not be frantic.

Dale Ralph Davis

2500 yrs ago Son of Man PROMISED Global Kingdom of All Peoples...

v. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples,
nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting
dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be
destroyed.

Wanna know what that LOOKS LIKE – Turn Head to RIGHT & LEFT

See our Small Gathering of NATIONS just part of Mighty GLOBAL Church

Son of Man – became Jesus’ Favorite Self-Description – Almost 100 X’s

He was THAT and lots More – from Alpha to Omega

NOT Mean He was JUST Human – Glorious SON who was Given Sovereignty

INTENTION that > All Know Humble Galilean was also HOLY GOD

CLAIMING this TITLE got Jesus KILLED...Literally...

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death...Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy... "He deserves death." Matthew 26.59-66

Jesus DECLARED Himself to be SON OF MAN at PRICE of His LIFE

Experienced TERROR Unimaginable SUFFERING Upon a CROSS

RISEN in TRIUMPH – Death could NOT HOLD Him – POWER in Glory

ANOTHER DEACON – Named Stephen – has his OWN Great Testimony...

he, (Stephen) full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Acts 7.55,56

THEN Stephen's DAY of TERROR led to TRIUMPH – Embraced by SON

Apocalyptic Message calls DECISION: Doom or Deliverance, Horror or Hope

Will you JOIN the BEASTS or the ANCIENT of DAYS & his Son of Man?

Decision that should NOT be DELAYED – We know END of Story

SON OF MAN will RETURN --- Terror will turn to FULL TRIUMPH...

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. Revelation 14.14-16

We will SEE the Son of Man ONE DAY – either as JUDGE or SAVIOR

Jesus – Glorious SON OF MAN – endured TERROR so all IN Him TRIUMPH

COME NOW before he SWINGS SICKLE of Final Judgment
While HE STANDS with OPEN ARMS calling FAITHFUL Servants Home...

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19.10

“Crown him the Son of God
Before the worlds began;
And ye who tread where he has trod,
Crown Him the Son of Man”
Matthew Bridges

Daniel 7.¹In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ²Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ⁴The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. ⁵And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ ⁶After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. ⁹“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹“I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.