

## Introduction to Lesson 4 The Times of the Gentiles

**Luke 21:24 ...Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**

### Four Gentile Kingdoms<sup>1</sup>

The prophet Daniel reveals a dream of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Daniel then interprets that dream to reveal the unfolding of the succession of the great kingdoms of the world that culminate into one final end-time kingdom. In this lesson we will discuss this remarkable prophecy and its implication to end-time events.

**Dan 2:31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold **a great image**. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

**32** This image's **head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,**

**33** His **legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.**

#### First – Babylonian Empire

Head of Gold & Lion-like Beast:

Different aspects found in Daniel 1:1-5:30 and 7:4.

#### Second – Medo-Persian Empire

Arms and Breast of Silver & Bear-like Beast:

Different aspects found in Daniel 2:39a; 5:31-6:28; 7:5; 8:1-7; and 10:1-11:2.

#### Third – Hellenistic (Greek) Empire

Belly of Brass & Leopard-like Beast:

Different aspects found in Daniel 2:39b; 7:6; 8:7-27; and 11:3-35.

1. Unified under Alexander the Great
2. Greek Empire was divided among four generals after Alexander's death.

#### Fourth – Imperialism (beginning with Rome) 63 BC – Present and beyond

Daniel – Legs of Iron with Feet and Toes of Iron Mixed with Clay (Daniel 2) & Beast with Iron Teeth with Ten Horns (Daniel 7).

Revelation – Beast with Seven Heads and Ten Horns:

Different aspects found in Daniel 2:40-43; 7:7-12, 19, 27; 9:27; 11:36-45.

The legs and feet with ten toes of Daniel 2 are the same as the fourth beast of Daniel 7.

Different aspects found in Revelation 13:1-10; 17:7-14.

The Fourth Beast in Daniel 7 is the same beast in Revelation 13 and 17.

1. United under Rome, the first imperialistic government.
  - a. Rome set up its own Roman rulers in its occupied lands (example – Pilate).

---

<sup>1</sup> See: Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events, Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003, 2004, pp. 19-44, 260.

- b. The previous three kingdoms established rulers from among the conquered people.
2. Two East-West divisions (Rome & Constantinople beginning in 364 AD).
  - a. This has continued to the present time through colonial systems of East and West (East-West balance of power) to the breakup of Soviet Communism, and now seems to be giving way to the push toward global unification (globalism).
3. One World Government Stage
  - a. Being implemented today by the push for global economies and regionalization [EU (European Union), NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement), United Nations, IMF, World Bank, World Court, etc.].
  - b. This one world system will eventually split into ten divisions.
4. Ten Division Stage
  - a. The world will organize into ten kingdoms (e.g. regionalization – (EU, NAFTA, etc.) that will change to eleven with the rise of the “little horn,” the Antichrist. Then it will be reduced to seven when Antichrist removes three kings, after which he becomes the eighth (Daniel 7:24, 25; Revelation 13:11).
5. The Antichrist Stage – Absolute Imperialism
  - a. The Antichrist is firmly in control as the world ruler (ruling all ten divisions), but this rule will only last until the system is completely destroyed by Jesus Christ at the Second Coming, at which time the fourth empire will end to be replaced by the Messianic (Millennial) Kingdom).

The Times of the Gentiles ends with the Second Coming of Christ. Then, the Messianic Kingdom, the 1000 years rule of Christ, is established.

### **The Beast of Revelation 12, 13 & 17:**

**Rev 12:3** And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

**Rev 13:1** And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

**2** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

**Rev 17:3** So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns....

**7** And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

**8** The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

**9** And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

**10** And there are seven kings: five **are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come**; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

**11** And the beast that was, and is not, even he is **the eighth**, and is **of the seven**, and goeth into perdition.

- This Beast is more fully described in Revelation than in Daniel 7.
- This Beast is first seen in Revelation in chapter 12, and 13 when the Antichrist comes on the scene.
- We learn a little more about this beast each time we encounter him in the Scriptures.
- The beast is the system from which the Antichrist emerges.
- The beast is further interpreted in Revelation 17, where it is destroyed as an imperial system.
- This Beast is representative of the Fourth Empire of Daniel 2, and is also representative of the Antichrist.
- The ten horns represent kings of whom the Antichrist becomes the 11<sup>th</sup>, then he removes 3, leaving 7, and then he becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> (Daniel 7:24, 25; Revelation 13:11).
- We now need to describe the 7 heads of this Beast – there are two views (opinions):
  - Five have fallen \*
  - One is (Rome) \*\*
  - One is to come (future)\*\*\*

## Two Views

### First View

#### 7 Steps to Roman Imperialism

### Second View

#### 7 World Empires

*First Head	The Tarquin Kings (753-510 BC)	Egypt
*Second Head	The Censors 510-494 BC)	Assyria
*Third Head	The Plebians (494-390 BC)	Babylon
*Fourth Head	The Republicans (390-59 BC)	Medo-Persia
*Fifth Head	The Triumvirate (59-27 BC)	Greece
**Sixth Head	Imperialistic Rome (From 27 BC) (United thru Ten Division Stage)	Rome
***Seventh Head	The Antichrist Stage	Revived Roman System

The seven heads on a single beast may well refer to the First View being the correct view, although the second view should be considered favorably. The 7 Steps in the first view refer to the stages of development of the Roman Government leading toward imperialism. This government began to become imperialistic about 63 BC.