



"As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.' "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet,

and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

"Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth,

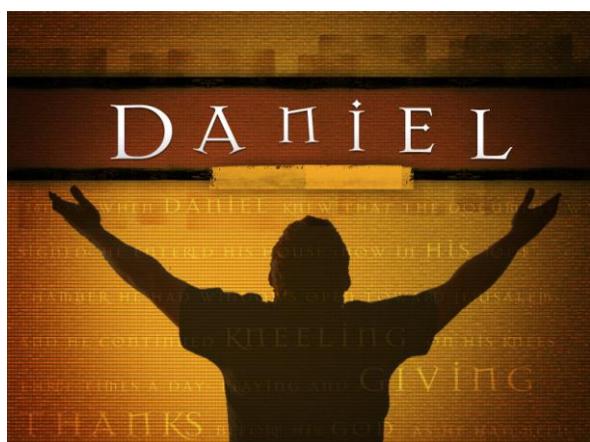
and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

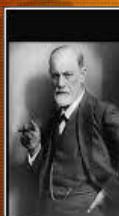
But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

"Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."



Have you ever had a bad dream?



Dreams are often most profound when they seem the most crazy.

(Sigmund Freud)

ixquotes.com

## Dreams and visions

Often include feelings or situations that we are involved in.

Work at the level of the subconscious.

It is useful to understand some of the influencing factors behind the imagery in Daniel's dream.

## Apocalyptic

Apocalyptic from the Greek word apokalypsis which means, "revelation"

Enigmatic

Strange imagery

Unusual numbers

## A raging sea



## Beast 1



The beast 'like' a lion-eagle

Representative of the Babylonian empire.

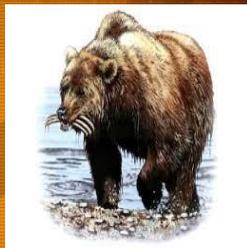
A hybrid of two fierce predators

## Beast 2

The beast 'like' devouring bear.

The Syrian bear

Representative of the Medo-Persian Empire under King Cyrus

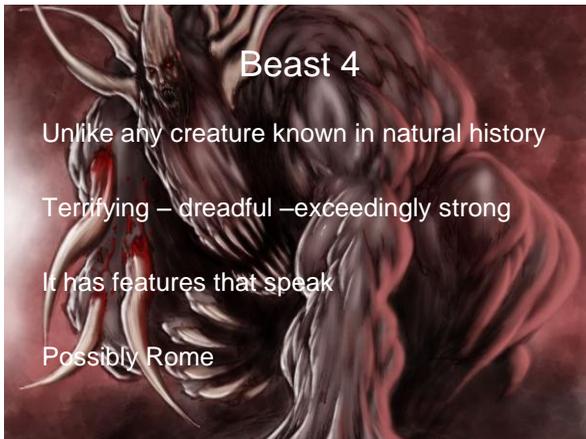


## Beast 3



The beast 'like' a four headed, four winged leopard-bird

Representative of the Greek empire established under Alexander and subsequently divided into four parts.



## Beast 4

Unlike any creature known in natural history

Terrifying – dreadful –exceedingly strong

It has features that speak

Possibly Rome



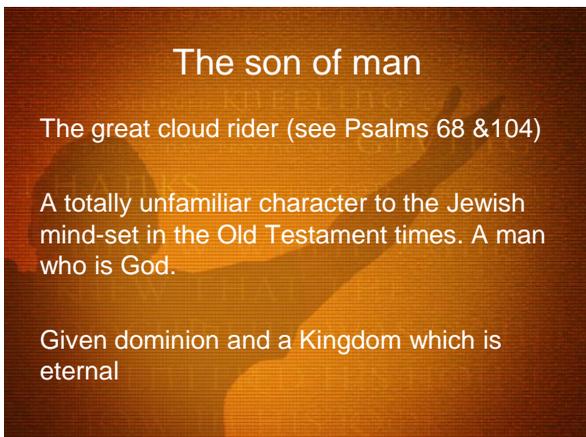
The ancient of days presides  
in judgement.

Imagery identifies the character as  
divine

Hair like pure wool = wisdom

White clothes = righteousness

Power of judgement = fire



## The son of man

The great cloud rider (see Psalms 68 & 104)

A totally unfamiliar character to the Jewish  
mind-set in the Old Testament times. A man  
who is God.

Given dominion and a Kingdom which is  
eternal

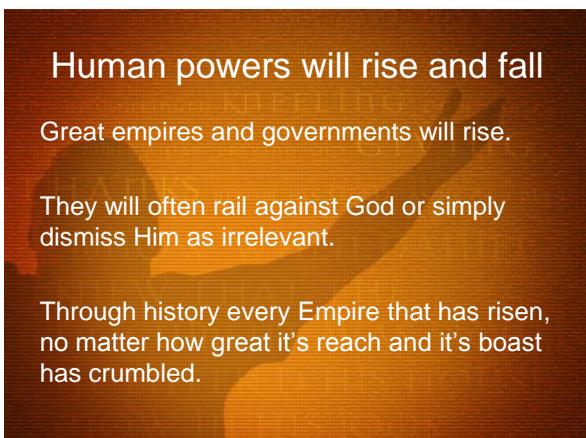


## TAKE GREAT CARE

Dreams filled with metaphor and simile

It is important to not be too dogmatic  
regarding interpretation but to look to the  
over arching theme.

What does this dream tell us?

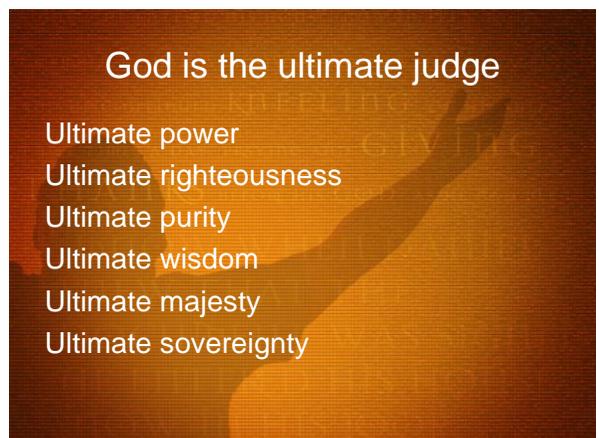


## Human powers will rise and fall

Great empires and governments will rise.

They will often rail against God or simply  
dismiss Him as irrelevant.

Through history every Empire that has risen,  
no matter how great it's reach and it's boast  
has crumbled.



## God is the ultimate judge

Ultimate power

Ultimate righteousness

Ultimate purity

Ultimate wisdom

Ultimate majesty

Ultimate sovereignty

## Jesus the King given dominion

Matthew 24 v 29-31

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

TO BE CONTINUED

## DANIEL

Next week:

How should the contemporary Christian react to Daniel 7?