

Four Beasts

Daniel 7:1-14

by Don Falkos

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Shortly after Belshazzar succeeded Nebuchadnezzar as king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, a horrific vision.

Four huge beasts came up out of a churning chaos. The first was like a lion with eagles' wings. Its wings were torn off. It was forced to stand up on its hind legs, and it was given a human heart.

The second was like a ravenous bear hunched up ready for attack. It had three large fangs in its mouth and was told, "Get up and eat your fill of flesh."

The third was like a leopard with four bird's wings on its back and four heads. It was given authority to rule.

Then a fourth beast arose. It was dreadful, horrible, extremely strong, and with great iron teeth. It crushed and devoured its victims and trampled whatever was left. This beast had ten horns. Suddenly another, smaller horn sprang up and uprooted three of the other horns. That horn had eyes like a human, and it boasted arrogantly, claiming to be a god.

Then came the Ancient of Days clothed all in white, sitting on a throne of fire with wheels of fire. A river of fire flowed from the throne, and thousands upon thousands stood in attendance. The small horn continued to boast until the fourth beast was killed and thrown into the blazing fire.

Then the Son of Man, the Messiah, came on the clouds and took his place with the Ancient of Days. He was given authority, power, and glory. People of every nation and every language worshiped him. His kingdom lasted forever and ever.