



The Best (and Worst) is Yet to Come

PART I

TODAY: HORROR BY THE SEA!

CH 7 - "OUR FUTURE AT A GLANCE" Daniel 7:1-9

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the New Testament on page 634.

CHAPTER 7 - OVERVIEW

- Chapter 7 may be the most difficult chapter in Daniel—but very important.
- Daniel's writing style becomes 'apocalyptic' (prophetic).
- The language of Daniel 7 is still in Aramaic (that started in Ch. 2:4ff)
- Daniel stops interpreting *dreams* (Chs. 1-6) to receiving *visions* about the future (Chs. 7-12).
- Daniel 7 records for us—prophetically—the end of time as we know it.
- The last six chapters detail four visions given to Daniel in the last 20 years of his life. These visions center around the nations and empires of the world, especially as they relate to God's plan for Israel.
- The chapter may be divided into three parts: (1) horror by the sea (7:1–8); (2) heavenly power (7:9–14); (3) divine victory (7:15–28). (Alt: The Kingdoms of this World; The Kingdom of Satan; and The Kingdom of God.)
- Regarding 'Bible prophecy': Don't be obsessed, afraid or apathetic of it.

All voices agree together, secular and sacred alike, that we are coming to an unprecedented time of trouble in the world, and we shall never again see anything that could be regarded as normal times. — Dr. Ray Stedman

STUDY SECTION

1. The Turbulent Sea (The Bad News about our Present Time and Near future)

Daniel 7:1–2, NASB - ¹ *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon [this would place it chronologically between Chs 4 & 5] Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.* ² *Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea [this pictures the world in turmoil because of sin]."*

2. The Five Beasts (Four Beasts from the past and one yet to be revealed)

Daniel 7:4–8, NASB - ⁴ *The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. [ie., The Babylonian Empire] I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.* ⁵ *And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear [ie., The Media-Persia Empire]. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth [The three ribs between its teeth and its readiness to eat its fill of flesh may symbolize the Persian conquest of Lydia (546 B.C.), Babylon (539 B.C.), and Egypt (525 B.C.)]; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'* ⁶ *After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard [ie., The Greek Empire], which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.* ⁷ *After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns [ie., The Roman Empire].* ⁸ *While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, [ie., The Antichrist] a little [rf., its number, not its size] one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.*

3. The 'Ancient of Days' (The Good News about our soon coming future!)

Daniel 7:9, NASB - ⁹ *I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days [“Ancient” doesn't mean 'old,' it mean 'eternal'] took His [ie., God—The Heavenly Father] seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.*

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

The worst is yet to come (temporary) and the best is yet to come (eternal).