

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES

4 LESSON

Lesson 4

FOUR WORLD MILITARY POWERS OF THE APPOINTED TIMES—PART I

Read Daniel 7:1-5; Revelation 6:1-4

- Learn How The Animal Creatures Of Prophecy Represent Modern Nations
- Discover Where America Is Found In The Prophecies

The participants and events which Daniel saw in vision are often repeated in the book of Revelation in sometimes similar, but more often different, symbolism. We might even think of Revelation as a commentary on Daniel's four visions of chapters 7-12. For example, we will teach that Revelation chapter 6 offers John's first description of *earth-bound events*, which are also found in the first few verses of Daniel chapter 7. Revelation chapters 4 and 5 give account of proceedings in Heaven's Temple—just as we'll discover later in Daniel 7.

So, let's set the stage for understanding Daniel 7 by first looking at Revelation 6; and, consider how Heaven connects the two prophetic visions. Here we see the Lamb (Messiah) opening the first seal of the divine scroll and one of the four living creatures summons the White Horse, which gallops onto the world stage. The second living creature introduces the Red Horse, the third a Black Horse and the fourth living creature summons the Pale Horse. The four horses of Revelation are John's counterpart to the four animal creatures of Daniel 7, all of which represent modern-day governments.



In our attempt to understand what or who is represented in the four animals of Daniel 7, let's consider the parallel Biblical references to the four horses. The scroll of Revelation gathered much of its symbolism from the ancient Scriptures, also known in Judaism as the *Tanakh*. Primarily, the book of Zechariah contains fourteen chapters filled with end-time language and predictions. It's here we find the four colored horses first mentioned prophetically, representative of military powers that are later discovered in Revelation 6, which John used to illustrate world forces on earth just before the return of Jesus our Messiah.

Four Colored Horses & The Four Winds

1. According to Zechariah 6:2-5, what are the four colors of the four horses? _____

2. Zechariah asked, "What are these, my LORD?" The angel replied, "These are the four _____ of heaven, going out from *standing in the presence of the LORD* of the whole world."

In both the NIV and KJV translations of the Bible, the reference margins give the alternate reading "winds". In other words, the "four winds" are four heavenly intelligences that stand beside God in a holy alliance. The cross symbolism connects the four horses as being the same four "spirits" or "winds" of Heaven. Chariots and horses denote military maneuvers, so this moves the four spirits of Heaven into the governmental realm.

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3. Another prophet—Ezekiel wrote that the four living creatures he saw with chariot-like wheels were extremely loud (3:12-13). What did the prophet associate with the noise? _____

The prophet Isaiah (6:2-4) also saw the four creatures in Heaven's Temple, but he called them four "seraphs"—or four angels, each with six wings. He described the creatures as each having four heads and they could travel in any direction without turning. As they rose in flight carrying God's throne, their massive wings stirred the air with awesome force creating turbulent winds and a loud roar.

4. Revelation 4:6-8 describes the same four-headed angelic creatures. What are their most identifiable characteristics? _____

John later described these four creatures when he wrote in Revelation 7:1-3, "I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

We know from this passage that just before the Great Tribulation, God's 144,000 elect will be sealed for protection as the world's great militaries marshal their forces for the last great battle. These four powerful creatures symbolize heaven's restraining control over earth's governments and armies.

5. How do we know God Almighty maintains restraining control over earth-bound powers (Daniel 2:21)? _____

God removes leaders and sets up leaders that His plan will eventually be accomplished.

6. What does the *sea* and *water* represent in prophecy (Isaiah 17:12-13; Jeremiah 6:23; Revelation 17:15)? _____

Various nations and peoples of the world are portrayed. Therefore, Daniel recognizes the four political/military powers will emerge out of populated regions of the world. The "great sea" is symbolically stirred to bring about four powerful end-time governmental beasts.

7. What are the four living creatures that have power over land and sea called in Daniel 7:2-3? _____

The Word depicts the four powerful living creatures with four heads and six massive wings as surrounding the throne and ready at a moment's notice to follow God's commands. The Father instructs them to stir up the political powers of the earth in Daniel 7:2. In similar fashion, when the four horses of Revelation 6 are introduced we find the same four living creatures summoning horse and rider into view.

We are left with this conclusion: the four horses of Revelation 6:1-8 represent the same end-time governments that the four animals of Daniel 7:1-7 symbolize, *because* both sets of animals are introduced by the same four mighty creatures—the "four winds of heaven"; and, in both prophetic books this is the first introduction to four animal creatures whose activities play out on Planet Earth just before the return of Jesus Christ. With this Biblical background established, let's begin to correlate the animals both Daniel and John in Revelation saw to four potential end-time governmental power-bases of our day.

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Lion With Eagle's Wings



8. In Daniel 7:4, the first animal creature Daniel saw, described as the noblest of beasts and birds, might represent what country (or countries) based on the known symbols of nations in today's world? _____

The lion could represent the United Kingdom, which is closely connected historically and strategically to the world's mightiest power with eagle's wings—the United States. Prophecy is illustrating their historical relationship and today's dominant alliance between these two modern countries.

9. What happens to the eagle wings attached to the lion? _____

The wings will be torn off. This indicates America's collapse as the primary superpower, with the United Kingdom's simultaneous downgrade of power as well. Their sudden downfall may occur by several means—terrorism, military defeat, natural disasters, financial collapse and social disorder. No doubt, great perils will take down America due to her spiritual and moral decay over the last several decades, which decline has accelerated.

10. Daniel 7:4 indicates after the wings are torn off, what happens? _____

The lion is lifted from the ground so that it stands on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man is given to it.

In our study of Bible prophecy, we would not want to overlook critical details that might seem on the surface to be insignificant. Commentators have often thought the symbolism of prophecy too mysterious to offer relevance to our day, but in this lesson series we will attempt to explain the unexplainable by comparing Daniel, Revelation and other astute predictions in the Word of God. Our endeavor is to always provide reasonable and thoughtful interpretations.

Daniel saw the wings being torn off the lion, then the lion is made to stand up on two human feet and a man's heart is given it. This is by design. Prophecy declares "take notice!"—there is a cruel tearing off of the wings followed by symbolism involving human characteristics. This implies an end-time personality who will rise to power from the United Kingdom/United States alliance. He could be a famous individual or a mysterious personality. However, we know that when an animal, or animal parts, take on human qualities, the Hebrew prophet is introducing a person of prominence. We know this because Daniel also introduces the "little horn" in similar fashion (Daniel 7:8)—the animal's horn that acquires human "eyes" and man's "mouth". And, we know this represents a powerful religious leader of the last days.

In both cases (Daniel 7:4, 8), the animals take on human characteristics; and here, Daniel is describing the two evil, end-time personalities just as found in the prophecies of Revelation 13—the False Prophet and

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Antichrist Beast. Therefore, it is our view that Daniel's prophecy is pointing out in subtle terms the False Prophet will emerge from this English alliance.

America's Jewish population (5,700,000) is just under the Jewish population in the land of Israel (6,446,000) as of 2018. America has long enjoyed divine protection against powers in high places, even though many nations have desired her demise. However, this is changing. The United States was once a nation built on the principles of religious freedom and morality. Even among the secular minded, there were standards of decency and respect for the basic commandments of God. However, decades ago a blight of corruption began to gain momentum, which now permeates American society like a disease. Pornography is rampant, and adultery, homosexuality and gay marriages are celebrated norms, with sexual immorality flouted in prime time. Innocent children are sacrificed daily to the god of convenience at abortion clinics. Crime and drug use reigns. Sin, mischief and immorality are unbridled, and nothing less than national catastrophe and revival can halt the tide. God's wise prophet warned long ago, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness," (Isaiah 5:20). Sin and compromise have reached into our hearts, homes, churches and synagogues.

God's principles are scoffed at as antiquated ideas, but His Word warns nations who once served Him, "If you ever forget the LORD your God... I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God," (Deuteronomy 8:19-20). The Israelites thought Elohim would protect them as His chosen nation despite their national rebellion; after all, they had experienced a miraculous deliverance from Egyptian slavery. History proves otherwise, with that generation dying in the wilderness. Many Americans also believe God will protect this "Christian" nation, with our own extreme national apostasy. Not so. Americans' love for their homeland cannot change the consequences of sin left unchecked and unrepented.

As we have found, the first animal that Daniel saw in vision was the Lion with Eagle's Wings. In Revelation 6:1-2, the first animal John viewed after the first of the seven-sealed scroll was broken open is the White Horse with a rider who has a bow of strength and crown of dominion. He gallops as a warrior and conqueror. This certainly is true of the American/British alliance for the last 100 years—their notable military supremacy and superpowers of the world for the short time that remains of their glory years. Now we will consider the second animal that Daniel saw in vision.

Bear With Three Ribs



Daniel 7:5 introduces the second animal—the Bear, which is inferior to the first, but next in the list of formidable beasts.

11. How is this creature described? _____

The Bear was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, "Get up and eat your fill of [human] flesh!"

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The Bear was raised up on one side, indicating either a lopsided injured animal, unstable and unbalanced, or a mad fighting Bear rising to strike; quite possibly both. Symbolized in the Bear is a national power to be reckoned with in our modern world—the Russian Federation.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991 left the Russian Federation with the bulk of the massive Soviet weapons and a mass destruction complex. This legacy has allowed Russia to retain its power status even as its economy collapsed, but the burden of supporting its large military apparatus has strained the Russian political and economic system.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is attempting to restore confidence in Russia by rebuilding its military prowess and restoring pride through its show of force. Russia conducts increasing more bomber flights and nuclear exercises each year, and Putin personally supervises many of these maneuvers. Even today, he appears eager to demonstrate the Russian Bear has not gone to sleep and is quite capable of handling any threats to his nation and allies. Military demonstrations have involved launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles, including some from Russian nuclear submarines. Russia has also simulated enemy missile attacks and tested Moscow's missile defense system against strike. Involved in the exercises was Russia's Tu-160 strategic bombers and the test-firing of cruise missiles over the northern Atlantic.

Most experts agree Russia is preparing for a potential all-out war with other nuclear powers. This has some Western experts concerned. The United States and Russia's relationship after September 11, 2001, could be described as a period of cooperation, with the Bear supporting the American war on terrorism and a mutual nuclear arms reduction deal. However, the West expanded its military presence in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia instead of withdrawing, as expected by the Russians. Washington has also been moving elements of its strategic missile defense system closer to Russia's western borders as the U.S. military abandons traditional bases in old Europe in favor of friendlier eastern nations. Tensions seem to continue a steady path of escalation, month after month.

Daniel saw three *ribs* in the Bear's mouth. This reminds us of Amos 3:12, where a shepherd is said to recover bones from the mouth of a lion. The Bertholdt Commentary notes on Daniel 7:5, "fangs or tusks - or fangs crooked or bent like ribs." The Pulpit Commentary adds, "What is meant by these three ribs has been much debated... Havernick thinks that it is a mistake to translate עלעין ('il'een) "ribs;" he maintains the true rendering to be "tusks." Nonetheless, what would the three bones indicate? Since horns in prophecy represents countries, this symbolism likely denotes that the Old Soviet Bear will destroy three nations; and, by doing so will devour much human flesh.

This would indicate a massive calculated assault—likely nuclear; the Bear will rise in attack mode to abruptly destroy three countries in a short period of time. In Lesson 5 we will closely examine why the devastation will likely occur among the 10 voting Member-States of the former Western Europe Union (WEU) military alliance first established in 1948 (the same year Israel became a nation), which in recent times merged into the European Union of nations.

12. In Revelation 6:3-4 we find John's counterpart. What is the horse's color and what does the rider do? _____

The red horse and rider are given power to take peace from the earth. He is given a "great sword". Russia's great sword could level thousands of structures in a moment of time and leave behind unimaginable death and suffering. World peace would be forever shattered.

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As noted, for decades during the Cold War the Soviets were believed to be a threat to global peace. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, many politicians proclaimed post-Cold War peace. However, this hope has been dashed in recent years, and Russia is once again an eminent threat. The Bear is divided and suffering anew from economic pressures, but Putin will not allow another national collapse without lashing out at the West.

The prophetic Word points to the Russian Federation as the primary instigator of end-time holocaust. The Bear will attack in anger as a powerful grizzly strikes its prey and will *uproot* (Daniel 7:8) three countries. To tear three horns out by their roots takes massive force. The human cost can be lost in the symbolism, but the price might be counted in the millions. Daniel's dream drives home a grim reality for our future: the flesh-eating bone-crushing Bear "was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' (7:5). Out of what looks to be World War III the "little horn"—a little nation among the ten other European horns—will rise up with boastful "mouth" and traveling "feet" to rule with great authority.

In review, Daniel introduced two animal creatures that represent end-time powers in our modern world: the British/American alliance—Lion With Eagle's Wings, and the Russian—Bear. Apprehension grows when we realize that America's wings will be torn off, and the Russian Bear will rise and devour immeasurable human flesh.

Many people, including religious leaders, sneer that the world is just like it's always been (2 Peter 3:3-4). Every day is just another day; and, we pursue our normal lives eating, drinking, celebrating weddings, engaged in careers and climbing the ladder of success. But suddenly and without warning, sirens will blare, and indescribable chaos will mushroom. From that day forward, survival will be the primary concern of every man, woman and child on Planet Earth. Knowing Christ personally and His prophetic warnings will provide the one and only source for spiritual survival during this perilous period when demonic powers will be released to deceive and destroy.

Could Russia's Putin cause such unspeakable holocaust? The Word of God registers a resounding "YES!" Not only does the Bear have the power, but Heaven warns she will use it and lash out. Weapons of mass destruction have been held in check for decades, but Satan will release his buried weapons of genocide and the world will never be the same again.

Out of the holocaust, a boastful leader will emerge on the world stage with mysterious signs and wonders, supported by the false prophet. Delusions will capture the hearts and minds of the nations and will seduce nearly the whole world into eventually taking the mark of the beast. Many religious leaders will succumb to the craftiness of Satan, while disregarding the clearest warnings in the books of Daniel and Revelation. By doing so, the masses will enter through the broad gate and go to their destruction without God, the Creator and King—the true Savior of mankind. Yeshua warned, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13.

Will you follow the crowd, or will you wait with patient endurance by faith to the end for the returning King of kings? Only He deserves our worship and alliance.