

Daniel: Chapter 7

----- Chapter 7:1-28: The Four World Empires.

Dan 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

- 553 B.C. (See notes 5:1). Daniel's dream is apocalyptic.

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Dan 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

The visions Daniel saw in this dream are the following.

- winds- Heb.7308-mind, spirit, wind. In language that is apocalyptic, four being universal (*north, south, east and west*), winds are "*the action of God*" and "*wind is invisible but it clearly affects things...*"

- the heaven- Heb 8065 corresponding with 8064- *be lofty*, the *sky*.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit*, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The **wind bloweth where it listeth**, and thou **hearest the sound** thereof, but **canst not tell whence it cometh**, and **whither it goeth**: so is every one that is **born of the Spirit**. (Emp. added)

*Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing (Gk.3067- *baptism*) of regeneration (Gk.3824- [*spiritual*] *rebirth*), and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Rev 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. (Emp. added)

- strove- shows conflict.

- great sea-

Isa 17:12 Woe to the **multitude** of many people, *which make a noise* like the **noise of the seas**; and to the **rushing of nations**, *that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters*! 13 The **nations** shall rush like the **rushing of many waters**: but *God* shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. (Emp. added)

Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon **many waters**: (*Emp. added*)

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The **waters** which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are **peoples**, and **multitudes**, and **nations**, and **tongues**. (*Emp. added*)

Isa 57:20 But the **wicked are like the troubled sea**, when it **cannot rest**, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21 *There is no peace*, saith my God, to the wicked. (*Emp. added*)

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- "God is at work among the restless nations raising up out of them the kingdoms that suit His purpose." (Ex 9:13-16)

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Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

- The first beast... lion- Babylonians as represented by Nebuchadnezzar. His was the chief above all the kingdoms that came after him. (*Head of gold- 2:32*)

- eagle's wings- (4:33) In his humility, Nebuchadnezzar "was driven from men... till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers..." Being plucked and thus lifted up shows Nebuchadnezzar once again groomed, with his kingdom being restored.

- stand...as a man- Nebuchadnezzar no longer eats as oxen. (4:36)

- man's heart- In exchange for a beast's heart. Heart in the Hebrew (3825/3824) is also translated as "understanding". (4:34, 36)

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Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

- another beast... bear- Medo-Persian. (*Ram in 8:3, 20*)

- raised up itself on one side- "Shows the Persian element dominant." (6:28)

- three ribs in the mouth- or one third of the ribs (*Heb.8532*). "Voracity, greed."

- devour much flesh- not finished eating (1/3), the bear is told to devour even more. To arise and do so would be to leave his current prey and go after more. (*Expansion*)

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Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

- leopard- Grecian. As a leopard lied in wait and leaps upon its prey so were the Greeks.

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- four wings; heads- After the death of Alexander the Great this kingdom "*divided into four segments.*" (8:8- heads/horns= same thing) Together these four powers ruled the earth. "*Between 334-331 (Alexander the Great) had wrestled the world-dominion from the Medo-Persians.*" It would take such swiftness, thus the wings, to carry out such a feat in such a short period of time.

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Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

- fourth beast- Roman. With her superior strength and iron teeth (*for easy consumption; iron being stronger than gold and brass*) Rome walked all over (*stamped*) the inferior nations (*residue*) before her.

- horn- has to do with strength, power. (1 Sam 2:10; Psa 18:2; 89:17)

- ten horns- ten kings (v. 24). (2:44) (see notes on Rev 17:9-11) (27 BC-96 AD)

1. Augustus, 2. Tiberius, 3. Caligula, 4. Claudius, 5. Nero,
6. Galba, 7. Otho, 8. Vitellius, 9. Vespasian, 10. Titus *

(*List of Roman Emperors- Internet)

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Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

- another horn- The youngest of the sons of Vespasian was Domitian. Galba, Otho and Vitellius reigned as Caesar for a total of five months collectively between AD 68-69 and Vitellius was murdered by Vespasian's army in 69 AD. Therefore, these three were rooted up before Domitian became Caesar in 81 AD. (v. 24)

- eyes of a man- not humble. He does not see as God sees.

- mouth speaking great things- claims deity. (**Rev 13:5-6**)

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Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire.

- thrones were cast down- suggests the unseating of emperors here being judged. The works of the just often judge the consciences of the unjust. "*This is the judgment of the saints coming upon the enemy.*"

1Co 6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they **speak against you as evildoers**, they may **by your good works**, which they shall behold, **glorify God** in the day of visitation. (*Emp. added*)

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and **judgment was given unto them**: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (*See notes in "Unlocking the Revelation"- Pgs. 300-303*) (*Emp. added*)

- Ancient of days- God the Father, the Eternal One. (*vs. 22, 26*)
- sit- on His throne thus reigns. The following describe this Sovereign as He sits on His throne in Heaven. (*Rev 4*)
- white as snow- God's purity and holiness.
- hair, like the pure wool- Concerning God but also describes Christ. (*Rev 1:14*)
- throne- like a fiery chariot. (*Eze 1:26-28*)

Rev 4:3 And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

- Fire is a purifying agent. Dross cannot approach it.

2Th 1:8 In **flaming fire** taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; (*Emp. added*)

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (*Emp. added*)

- God's throne is surrounded by an innumerable host.

Rev 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

- Rev 20:11-15 depicts the final judgment. Here we see God's judgment on Rome. "*As Babylon had been humiliated in Nebuchadnezzar so Rome is judged in Domitian.*"
- books- (*Rev 20:12*) not "the" book. Deeds are here exposed.

Exo 32:31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, **blot me**, I pray Thee, **out of Thy book** which Thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath **sinned against Me, him** will I **blot out of My book**. (*Emp. added*)

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the **books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were **judged** out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works**. (*Emp. added*)

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Dan 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

- given to the burning flame- utter defeat. The blasphemy spoken by Domitian (*along with the persecution of the saints*) brought about the demise and judgment of the Roman Empire in "fire and brimstone". (*Rev 14:8-11*)

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Dan 7:12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

- Even after losing their dominion, the anti-God ideals of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece lived on in the Roman Empire. (*See note on Rev 13:2*)

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Dan 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *One* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him.

- In this dream Daniel sees Christ Who came "with the clouds of heaven" showing Divine origin. Clouds can also be enjoined with coming in judgment. (*Mat 24:30; 26:64; Mk 13:26; 14:62*)

This is Christ's coronation after His ascension back to Heaven.

Act 1:9 And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a Man Child, Who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her Child was caught up unto God, and *to* His throne.

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Dan 7:14 And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

Act 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and **having received** of the Father the **promise** (*the kingdom via Daniel's inspired prophesy received*) of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. (*Emp. added*)

- ...*"the Representative of the saints receiving sovereign power from the Source of all power."* (2:44; Mat 28:18) Why can it not be destroyed?

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence.

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (*It's spiritual in nature.*)

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation**, and strength, and **the kingdom** of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser (*Job 1&2*) of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. (*Emp. added*)

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Dan 7:15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Dan 7:16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

- Daniel wanted his nightmares explained.
- one of them- either referring back to one of the angels that presented Christ to the Father in the vision, or one that stood with the others that were encircling the throne.
- made known the interpretation- angels are the messengers from God to, in this case, explain what visions mean to the one God chooses worthy enough to accept them.

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Dan 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

- (vs. 4-8)

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Dan 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

- But- no matter what kingdom or persecution arose (*even the death of Jesus – Matt 16:18*) the church was going to "*be established in the top of the mountains*" (*Isa 2:2*), showing that she is above all other kingdoms.

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Dan 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

- Daniel wants to know about Rome. (*vs. 7-9*)

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Dan 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

- Domitian persecuted the church (81-96 AD). Even though Domitian slaughtered many of the saints, they had/have the final word in the matter because judgment was decided in their favor. (*Rev 20:4*)

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Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

- Ancient of days came- God came in the form of His Son (Jn 14:9). This is a visitation of judgment as in Rev 1:7; 2:5, 16, 25; 3:3, 11. In this case the judgment was given to the saints who were the truly innocent whereas Rome the truly guilty. The events in the following verse transpired **after** Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time **restore again the kingdom to Israel?** 7 And He said unto them, **It is not for you to know** the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. 8 **But** ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (*Emp. added*)

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Act 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, **He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.** (*Emp. added*)

- Even after being persecuted, the saints profess the kingdom is theirs. God's verdict against Rome and the dispute over the "inherited earth" is settled (*Mat 5:5*). (*Col 1:12-13; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6*)

Rev 12:11 And they **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (*Emp. added*)

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- Rome's fall is a demonstration of God's rule, not the beginning of it. Christ already ruled over the fourth beast ("*This was accomplished at the resurrection and glorification of Christ.*"). God was/is always in control!

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Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Dan 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

- diverse- Domitian (*going into perdition- Rev 17:11*) "eventually succumbed to paranoia and engaged in a vicious round of executions that led to his own assigation in 96 AD."- metmuseum.org

- subdue three kings- see notes on verse 8.

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Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

- speak great words against the most High- speaking against the saints would be to speak against Christ and thus against God the Father.

Mat 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done *it* unto Me.

Heb 2:11 For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause *He* is not ashamed to call them brethren,

- wear out the saints- this was the period of persecution under Roman domination until the Edict of Milan in 313 AD which was issued by Emperor Constantine.

- (God) changeth the times and the seasons... (2:21) for any mere mortal (*here Domitian*) to "**think to change times and laws**" would be to put himself in a position of divine authority. Times (*Heb.2166-seasons*) here referred to the consecration of religious holy days or sacred rituals/practices that were decreed by the gods or by **the** God; and laws (*Heb.1882-decree/law*) pertaining to religion, replacing established practices (*pagan, sacrificial or otherwise*) with a system of emperor worship (*Rev 13*). Since Christians would not worship Rome's pagan idols (*according to Roman law*) they were considered heretics and thus suffered the consequence for their heresy. But God had set in order things that were to be in eternity, and not even Satan, let alone Rome, could change them.

- time and times and the dividing of time- $1+2+1/2=3\frac{1}{2}$ or incomplete (7 *being complete*). Rome's persecution was not complete; it did not accomplish what it wanted it to do (*totally annihilate the church*). Through whatever trial the saints will always prevail, God will be glorified and the Gospel will be preached.

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him (*Nero*) a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power (*authority*) was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**. (*3 ½ years, time of Nero's reign*) (*Emp. added*)

Act 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his (*Steven's*) death. And at that time there was a **great persecution against the church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all **scattered abroad** throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. (*Emp. added*)

Act 8:4 Therefore **they that were scattered** abroad **went every where preaching the word**. (*Emp. added*)

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Dan 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4 According as He **hath chosen** us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: 5 Having **predestinated us** unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; 8 Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us **the mystery** of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: 10 That in the **dispensation of the fulness of times** He might **gather together** in one **all things in Christ**, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in Him: 11 In Whom also **we have obtained an inheritance**, being **predestinated according to the purpose of Him** Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 12:27 And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the **removing of those things that are shaken** (*physical*), as of things that are made, that **those things which cannot be shaken** (*spiritual*) **may remain**. 28 Wherefore we **receiving a kingdom** (*the church*) which **cannot be moved** (*Dan 2:44*), let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (*Emp. added*)

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first resurrection** (*Rom 6:5*): on such the second death (*separation from God for eternity- 2 Thes 1:9*) hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall **reign with Him** a thousand years (*Christian dispensation*). (*Emp. added*)

By God's design the humble saints have inherited the earth by becoming stewards (*Mat 5:5*) via the Great Commission in spite of the persecution. It was the persecution that caused the expansion of the kingdom and sealed the deed (*Act 8:1-4*). By the blood of Christ, the kingdom (*church*) "broke in pieces" (*Dan 2:45*) all other rules and authorities.

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Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

- In verse 13 the Son of Man (*Christ*) is representing (*interceding in behalf of*) His people of the kingdom (*church*). The kingdom (*rule*) is taken from Rome and given to the saints through Christ.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The **kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ**; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (*Emp. added*)

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to **sit with Me** in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. (*Emp. added*)

It already belonged to God (2:37). His judgment on Rome was public proof of it. (*See also Act 2:30 and 1 Chr 29:23*)

- all dominions shall serve and obey Him- (*Rev 12:5; 15:4; 21:24*)

Rom 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every knee shall bow to Me**, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (*Emp. added*)

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all **nations**, and **kindreds**, and **people**, and **tongues**, **stood before the throne**, and before the Lamb, **clothed with white robes**, and palms in their hands; (*Emp. added*)

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Dan 7:28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

- cogitations- Heb.7476-grasp, mental conception. Even the prophets didn't always understand their visions.

1Co 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, *even* the **hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for **had they known it**, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (*Emp. added*)

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls. 10 **Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently**, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: 11 **Searching** what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them** did signify, when it (*He*) testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 **Unto whom it was revealed**, that **not unto themselves, but unto us** they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into**. (*Emp. added*)

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countenance- Heb.2122-cheerfulness. Daniel was very humbled by this dream. He would have had the look of one who had been studying for some time as though pondering over a difficult situation.
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heart- Daniel kept the revealing of the dream to himself. He stored it in his mind possibly thinking there would be no one who might believe him anyway.

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