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A Vision of the Heavenly Court
7: 9-12

A vision of the heavenly court DIG: What picture does the "Ancient of Days" bring to mind: Wisdom of senility? Venerability or sovereignty? Sentimental softy or moral purity? What do you think is implied by "the books were opened?" Who is the fourth beast? What happens to him and the other three beasts?

REFLECT: What does the phrase "the Ancient of Days" mean to you? When you look at the picture below, does it strengthen your faith, or seem weird? Why is that? Seeing this courtroom scene and the judgement coming from God the Father, what feelings do you have for those who are being judged?

Dani'el 2 gives us the perspective of the times of the Gentiles from a human viewpoint
as something majestic, but Dani'el 7 gives us the perspective from God's viewpoint
as something dreadful.

In **his** third **vision** (**to see link click Bz – Dani'el's Vision of Four Beasts**), **Dani'el** was no longer on the earth (see **Cd – The Kingdom of Satan**), but in **heaven**. **He** saw an angelic court preparing to begin proceedings in a **heavenly** courtroom, and a sentence of **judgment** was about to be carried out. There is a startling contrast here. In **7:7-8 the antichrist** is seen **blaspheming the God of heaven**, but in **7:9-10** the sovereign **LORD** is shown sitting upon **His throne**, calmly preparing for the day of **judgment**. A greater contrast between two connecting verses can hardly be imagined.[199] In addition, the language and style of this account shifts from prose to short phrases presented in poetic parallelism. **Three scenes** followed in rapid succession, as one part of the vision faded into another.



The Ancient of Days (7:9-10): As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. God the Father is never taken by surprise, never undecided, never in a panic about **His** world. **He** reigns. In the face of the horrible havoc that humans are able to cause, **Dani'el** is reminded that ultimate authority does not reside in **Babylon**, **Persia**, **Greece**, or **Rome**. It is in the hands of **God**. **His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool,** reflecting **His** purity**.** The description of **YHVH** must not be taken literally, because **He** doesn't have a body, wear **clothes**, or grow **white hair**. These things are symbolic of **His** nature and character: **He** is eternal, holy, and sovereign. In **Revelation 1:12-20**, these same characteristics are applied to **Yeshua Messiah**, thus proving that **He** is the eternal **Son of God**.[200] **His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze (7:9). Dani'el's** description of the glory surrounding **the One** seated on **the flaming throne** with **wheels** recalls what **Ezeki'el** saw (see **Ezeki'el Ak – The Vision of the Chariot**).

A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before Him. The **fire** speaks of **His** holiness and **judgment** against sin. **Our God is a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29; Psalm 97:1-4).** But this is nothing new. From **the burning bush (Exodus 3:3)** to **Malachi's judgment by fire (Malachi 4:1)**, **fire** often depicts **God's** presence, or is pictured as going before **Him** to prepare for **His** coming **(Psalm 50:3** and **97:3)**. The **river of fire** coming out from **the chariot** describes **God's judgment** as being poured out upon the wicked, particularly upon the **Kingdom of Satan** and **the antichrist** when **Messiah** returns (see the commentary on **Isaiah Kg – The Second Coming of Jesus**

Christ to Bozrah). It is fitting that **thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. Dani'el** tries to write something like infinity in order to express the countless number of **angels** that stood before **the throne** ready to carry out **the judgments** of **Ha'Shem**.[200] The description builds up to the climax: **judgment** was about to begin, **the court was seated, and** evidence was produced as **the books were opened (Exodus 32:32; Psalm 56:8; Malachi 3:16),** and **God the Father** prepared to **judge** the evil on the earth **(7:10).**[202] No matter what **Satan** or **the antichrist** do on the earth, **God** is still on **the throne**.

The destruction of the fourth beast (7:11): With the description of **heaven** finished, **Dani'el** returns to **the beasts** of **Chapter 2**. **The fourth beast** represents **the Fourth Empire** (see **Bb – The Fourth Empire: Imperialism**). **Dani'el** foresaw that this **Empire** would undergo several stages. It began with the rise of the **Roman Empire** (see **Bc – The United Stage**), followed by **the Medo-Persian Empire** (see **Bd – The Divided Kingdom Stage**), and lastly by the appearance of **the antichrist** during **the Great Tribulation** (see **Be – The One World Government Stage**). **Then Dani'el continued to watch because of the boastful words the little horn was speaking** (see **Cd – The Kingdom of Satan: The little horn**)**. He kept looking until the beast (the antichrist) was slain and his body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. The fire** mentioned here is the same **fire of judgment** seen in **7:9-10**. **Revelation 19:20** spells out the fulfillment of this prophecy: **And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast – miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The Kingdom of Satan** will utterly be destroyed, which will end **the Times of the Gentiles** (see **Ao – The Times of the Gentiles**). This dramatic turn of events will prove beyond any doubt that **ADONAI** is sovereign over the whole world.

The first three beasts (7:12): The other beasts (see **Cc – The Kingdoms of This World**)**,** which were **lion-like (7:4), bear-like (7:5), and leopard-like (7:6), had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to exist for a period of time.** But how could those **beasts** lose **their authority** and still **exist**? As **the Babylonians** (see **Ay – The First Empire: A Head of Gold**), **the Medo-Persians** (see **Az – The Second Empire: Chest and Arms of Silver**), and **the Greeks** (see **Ba – The Third Empire: Belly and Thighs of Bronze**) were

defeated one after another, **their authority** ended, but **they** continued **to exist** because **they** were absorbed into the next **empire**. For example, **Greece** was conquered by **Rome** (see **Bc – The United Stage**); and although **Greek** dominance ceased, **the Greeks** continued to **exist** because **they** were absorbed into **the Roman Empire**.

In **Revelation 13:1-2, John** saw **the** same **Fourth Beast** that **Dani'el** saw in **his** vision, but **he** provided a much more detailed description. **Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon (Satan) gave the beast (the antichrist) his own power and throne and great authority. John's** description of **the Fourth Beast** is strikingly similar to **Dani'el's** description of the first **three beasts**. **The body** of **John's beast** resembled that of **a leopard**, **its feet** were **bear-like**, and **its mouth** looked as if **it** belonged to **a lion**. In **Dani'el's** vision, **the leopard** represented **the Greek** Empire; **the bear** represented **the Medo-Persian Empire**, and **the lion** represented **the Babylonian Empire**. The similarities between **John's beast** and **Dani'el's** other **three beasts** suggest that those **empires** left **their** mark on **the Fourth Empire**.[203] The continued existence of the defeated **kingdoms** is parallel to **Chapter 2** where **Nebuchadnezzar's statue** did not collapse until **its feet of iron and clay** (representing the final phase of the of **the Fourth Empire**), was struck by **the Rock**, **Yeshua Messiah.**[204] Therefore, **the Kingdom of Satan** will be completely destroyed and replaced by a new world order (see **Cf – The Kingdom of God**).

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for being so wonderful and perfect in character. You are totally holy and perfect in love! **Your** omniscient wisdom works together with **Your** holiness and love to ensure perfect justice that is never too harsh, never too lenient and always happens at the perfect timing. When evil seems to rear its ugly head, **Your** children do not need to fear for they have a sure hope that **the Kingdom of Satan** will utterly be destroyed. That gives **Your** children confidence that earthly trials will soon be over and heaven's joys will be eternal! **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).** You will use the time of Tribulation both to purify conquerors for **Your Kingdom** and to weed out hardened evil doers who refuse to repent. **People were scorched with fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God – the One who has power over***

these plagues. But they did not repent, to give Him glory. Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in pain and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their boils. But they did not repent of their deeds (Revelation 16:9-11). And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 21:15). *In* ***the Name*** *of* ***the One*** *who sits at* ***Your*** *right hand. Amen*