

Program: SS Panel 2025 2 Q

Quarterly title: Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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Lesson Title: #5 The Nations: Part 2

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Note: This color and font = quarterly text

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Question:

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The Nations: Part 2

TUESDAY

April 29

Daniel 7

The dream of Daniel 2 was first presented to a Babylonian king. The vision of Daniel 7, in contrast, was presented to a Hebrew prophet, a member of God's covenant people.

Daniel is shown the same subject as was Nebuchadnezzar, but from a different perspective. Instead of a statue, he sees a series of nations rising up out of the sea, the result of wind churning up the water. These nations were in a continual state of strife, causing a perpetual shift in power among them. Verses such as Psalm 65:5–8; Isaiah 17:12, 13; and Jeremiah 46:7, 8 use the analogy of floods and waves to depict the tumult among the nations.

REF:>> Psalm 65:5–8 5 *By* awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, **You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth**, And of the far-off seas;

6 Who established the mountains by His strength, *Being* clothed with power;

7 You who still the noise of the seas, The noise of their waves, And **the tumult of the peoples**.

8 They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.

REF:>> Isaiah 17:12, 13 Woe to the multitude of many people *Who* make a noise like the roar of the seas, And **to the rushing of nations That make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!**

13 The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; But *God* will rebuke them and they will flee far away, And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

REF:>> Jeremiah 46:7, 8 7 “Who *is* this coming up like a flood, Whose waters move like the rivers?

8 Egypt rises up like a flood, And *its* waters move like the rivers; And he says, ‘I will go up *and* cover the earth, I will destroy the city and its inhabitants.’

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In contrast, the Promised Land existed, at least for a period of time, as an island of peace and safety amid a sea of Gentile kingdoms—a sacred nation established on the solid foundation of God’s government, as opposed to the unruly nations around it.

1Ki 8:54 And it was *so*, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

1Ki 8:55 And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying,

1Ki 8:56 Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

Read Daniel 7:1–3. There is a lot of movement in this scene. What lessons can we draw from this imagery, such as the beast first arising from the sea?

Daniel 7:1–3 1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

2 Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

>>> from: God Cares Vol. 1, -

50 years have passed since the vision of Daniel 2

The fall of Babylon chapter 5 and his experience and the lions den chapter 6 we're still in the future for the chapters of the book of Daniel are not all arranged chronologically. Nonetheless, 50 years have passed since the vision of Daniel chapter 2. God Cares Vol. 1, C. Mervyn Maxwell, p. 107

NIL: Not in Lesson

Isa 57:20 But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, **when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.**

Isa 57:21 *There is* no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

four winds: Winds blowing on the sea produce commotion. But the commotion by which nations rise and fall is war.

REF:>> There are two other symbols, namely, the winds and the sea, but they are easily explained. **The four beasts (kingdoms)** came up as the result of the strife of the four winds of heaven upon the great sea. **Winds blowing on the sea produce commotion. But the commotion by which nations rise and fall is war;** therefore we must conclude that the four winds blowing on the great sea, represent strife among the people of the earth. We shall see that this is correct. BEST January 15, 1889, page 25.6 — BEST: Bible echo and signs of the times.

Great sea: 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.

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

*****READ*****

Daniel watches the chaos of Gentile warfare from the shore, when suddenly the beasts start *coming up on the land*—into his territory! Gentile problems had now become his people’s problems. **They had chosen to live *like Gentiles*, so now they would live with (and under) Gentiles. Starting with Babylonian domination, God’s covenant people never again enjoyed complete or long-lasting autonomy.**

This loss of autonomy for God’s people today will persist until the close of time, when Christ is finally restored to His rightful place as our King. In the New Testament, God’s people continued to suffer under the thumb of the Roman Empire and then under the persecutions of the little horn, pagan Rome’s successor.

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Though, historically, some nations have been better than others, and some eras have been more peaceful than others, the vast majority of the history of nations, peoples, and empires has simply been going from one tragedy to another, from one oppressor to another. And often this is all done under rulers claiming only the best of intentions for their own people. What a contrast to the rule that God had wanted for His people, if only they would have chosen it.

the LORD will bless his people with peace

Psa 29:11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

How does Romans 3:10–19 help explain so much of our world? How does verse 19, especially, show why we so desperately need the gospel in our lives?

Romans 3:10–19 10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

13 “Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps *is* under their lips”;

14 “Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.”

