

The interpretation of the dream of the four beasts



It is with amazing clarity that the development of four world empires is predicted in Daniel's dreams. The four beasts stand for the four kingdoms of chapter 2:

- Lion: The mighty Babylon, which will last only for another two decades.
- Bear: The Medo-Persian Empire renowned for its violence.
- Leopard: Greece, which was going to conquer the then known world in a very short time.
- The fourth beast: The unique Roman Empire. At the beginning of the time of tribulation the Roman Empire will exist again: It has ten horns, representing ten kings. Another horn grows up and receives dominion. After God has allowed this blaspheming king some freedom, He will judge him.



31. How will God deal with the last king of the Roman Empire (vv25-26)?
32. How does Daniel react to this dream, and how do you react?



The Roman Empire has long ceased to exist, but it will – after the rapture of the believers – come into existence again (Revelation 13:5). At first this empire will be ruled by ten kings, but in the end they will give all their power to one man who will blaspheme God and persecute the believers living at that time. This king will work closely with the Antichrist, the ruler over Israel. Both will take their influence from Satan, and both will be judged by the Lord Jesus on the earth.



It is grace that God will keep you as a Christian from the time of tribulation. Thank Him for it.



31. At first He will allow him to continue. This will be a terrible time, in which Satan will have enormous influence, through this king together with the Antichrist. Power will be given to him to rule for 3 1/2 years (that is the "time, times and half a time", the second half of the seven year period of tribulation.) AT the end the Lord Jesus will intervene Himself and destroy them. 32. Daniel was very troubled (w15+28). How about you? Of course, it is frightening to have this view into the future. Many terrible things are seen. But at the same time, you have no reason to be scared if you belong to the Lord Jesus who is the Victor in the end. Then you will not experience the time of tribulation. It is sad if you are still on the wrong side – you would end up in the lake of fire, together with the last king of Rome, the Antichrist and Satan himself (Revelation 20:10+15)