





Daniel 33 – Lion Becomes a Man

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Daniel 7:4



Prologue: Daniel's Interpretation – Nebuchadnezzar the Golden Head

- Daniel gives as a statement of fact that Nebuchadnezzar is the golden head of his vision; i.e., he is the head of Marduk and greater than all the kingdoms which will follow (Da 2:3)
 - Daniel's wordage is not drawn out of thin air but builds on Jeremiah's prophecies (Ja 27:14; 28:14-17)
 - Daniel attributes his prophecy to God of Heaven, differentiating Him from Marduk who dwells on earth in a temple whose gold statue is paraded annually through Babylon during a two-week elaborate ceremony which ends in human sacrifice, usually a criminal stands in for the king to die in the king's place
 - When Daniel proclaims that God (Allah) subjected all peoples, beasts and birds under his rule to his authority, Nebuchadnezzar conflates this to mean his god, Marduk; this leads to the events in Daniel Two: worship of the golden idol
 - Nebuchadnezzar was truly pinnacle of Mesopotamian culture – Golden Head



Prologue: Mesopotamian Culture Intertwined with Judaism

- As previously indicated, Abram came from Mesopotamia in its early days coming out of idolatry: Sin Moon god (Ja 1:1-28)
 - Abraham believed God and became the father of both a physical people, Jews, and a spiritual people, True Jews and Christians (Ja 15:1-18; 49:12; Ga 3:16)
 - False Jews remained trapped in their idolatry though warned of God many times of the consequences: Captivity (Ja 24:2-12; 38:41-52)
 - God has returned His people back to the idolatrous land of their beginnings to experience the harshness of Satan's tender mercies, Hammurabi's Law Code
 - Now God will show mercy to the king who brought them into captivity to bring them to rage at the mercy they have refused (Ja 10:18-11:24)
 - God's first step was to declare their captor as the pinnacle of civilization and show him mercy, of which this is the first step, while they suffer wrath for their sin

Back to Genesis: Carnivores and Men

- Noah took mating pairs of each animal on the Ark which were released when God opened the Ark (Jk 7:1-10:13-14)
 - Fundamental change occurred after the Cataclysm: man could eat meat and animals were given fear of man for preservation; I believe that the carnivorous nature was introduced at this time or they could not be fed during year on Ark (Jk 1:28-30; 9:1-6; 11:1-4; 16:7-22)
 - Animals reproduce faster and would quickly outnumber and threaten people due to pressures of hunting, game availability and territorial populations
 - Leaders were primarily military leaders and demonstrated their courage by close-quarter combat with certain carnivores and herbivores (Jk 10:1-12)
 - Most honored carnivore was the lion pride ruled by male lion and often became symbol of courageous king; bull showed strength and determination (Su-en)



Lamassu: Winged-Lion or Bull & Man's Head

- Lamassu combined qualities of admired animal with man's mind
- Common in Mesopotamian history from Ur to early Persia
- God revealed true nature of kings: purely animalistic (Sin)
- God would **change** Babylon's lion into a man without wings
- Restlessness of wings replaced with steadfastness of standing which was unique to Man's locomotion

Winged-Lion Arises out of Raging Sea: Changed into a Man

- Corresponds to the golden head: Nebuchadnezzar (Jk 2:30-31)
 - First metaphor called forth out of sin's raging sea. Lion, will be Satan's coming Antichrist's mouth (Jk 13:6-13:2)
 - Though warned of God by a vision, Nebuchadnezzar condemned himself when **he** spoke his own greatness when viewing **his** city (Jk 4:28-33)
 - For seven years, number of completeness, he outwardly was the beast he was inwardly, lost and a child of Satan, until God gave him a changed mind, Salvation (Jk 4:34-37)
 - His Ishar wings of idolatry, slavery to Satan, God plucked from him and **made** him stand as a man (God's Image) (Jk 10:6-17)
 - He was the **only** governmental ruler saved showing God's power above Satan
 - Mesopotamia, represented by Babylon, is foundation for false faith of Luciferianism and Gnosticism that invades all work-based religions: basis of agreement of all peoples and the new religion of the False Prophet who resurrects Antichrist (Jk 12:11-13)



Examining the Winged-Lion of Idolatry



- Cat kingdoms depicted by most famous rulers; others by perceived qualities
- Daniel details why Nebuchadnezzar was depicted as a lion (Dan 4:16-17)
 - Nebuchadnezzar was powerful in conquering
 - Nebuchadnezzar was kingly in beautifying Babylon
 - Nebuchadnezzar was feared and respected among the nations
 - These are all qualities man depicts in lions: King of Beasts
- Wings not only denote swiftness but also reference idolatry; Ishtar
 - Goddess of war and love (lust) often depicted with wings and lion
 - Primary deity along with Marduk often associated with a dragon
 - Winged-Lion depicts Nebuchadnezzar's violent Satanic nature and control
- Cats kill their prey by suffocation; Satan kills by strangling the souls of man by hiding the Spirit and Word from Lost to prevent their salvation

Why Only Nebuchadnezzar Saved: Demonstration of Sovereignty

- Old Testament usually punctuates a concept with a dramatic example that is usually ignored (Sabbath) (Lev 15:20-24)
 - Nebuchadnezzar saved as an example to other leaders
 - Darius saved as an example to Cyrus of God's power (Satan) (Dan 4:29-37)
- God is the Potter and saves whom He wills giving examples for the lost who in asebeia reject God's mercy and love their sin (Dan 3:1-7; 1Co 1:18-20; 1Ti 2:3-6)
 - Judah was in captivity because they refused God's mercy (Jer 1:4-5; 29:7-14)
 - After Captivity they retained covetous idolatry but still rejected God's Truth (Jer 2:7-8; 17:14; 32:1-2)
 - No one seeks after God, Old or New Testament, but love their sin(s); It is always God who comes for sinners; either directly or through people (Gospel) (Jer 1:10-14)

Our History: Satan Preparing for Antichrist

- History since Christ has marched inexorably toward his goal of installing his government via Antichrist which remains future to us
 - Christians are to discern their times using Scripture and evangelize others (Jer 1:11-14)
 - We should not fall into the trap of predicting times that even Christ did not reveal (Jer 23:26; Mt 24)
- Christians should believe all governments to be instruments of Satan
 - Billy Graham, universalist, advisor to President Nixon: Sneak and liar
 - Jerry Falwell, Moral Majority, built big Liberty dream using questionable monetary support, aligned Christians with President Regan: Sneak, liar, and astrologist wife
- We are not of this world; we seek a city to come whose maker is God hence the world hates us and will persecute us via governments as they did Christ and the prophets (Faithful) (Jer 1:10-12; 14:11-14; 15:1-3; 1Co 2:14-16; He 11:13-14; 30-36)