



Daniel 7

Four Beasts in Daniel 7



1

- Like a Lion
- With eagle's wings
- Wings plucked later
- Lifted up from earth
- Man's heart given



2

- Like a Bear
- Raised up on its side
- Had 3 ribs in its mouth
- Was told to arise and devour much flesh



3

- Like a Leopard
- With 4 fowl's wings
- Had 4 heads
- Given dominion



4

- Exceedingly dreadful, terrible beast
- Iron teeth, brass nails
- Had 10 horns
- A little horn, which plucked 3 horns

Daniel 7

- v.17 - These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.
- So who are these kingdoms?
- Most will say it's a retelling of Daniel 2

Daniel 2



Babylon
605-539 BC

Medo-
Persia
539-331 BC

Grecia
331-168 BC

Rome
168 BC-476 AD

Daniel 7



Problems with Daniel 2 and 7 being the same

- Most comes from misunderstanding the stone in Daniel 2

4 Metals Statue

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Iron



Christ
the
Stone

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- Another problem is the timing of the kingdoms
- For Daniel 2 and 7 to be the same, the kingdoms would have to follow each other chronologically in time, one after the other

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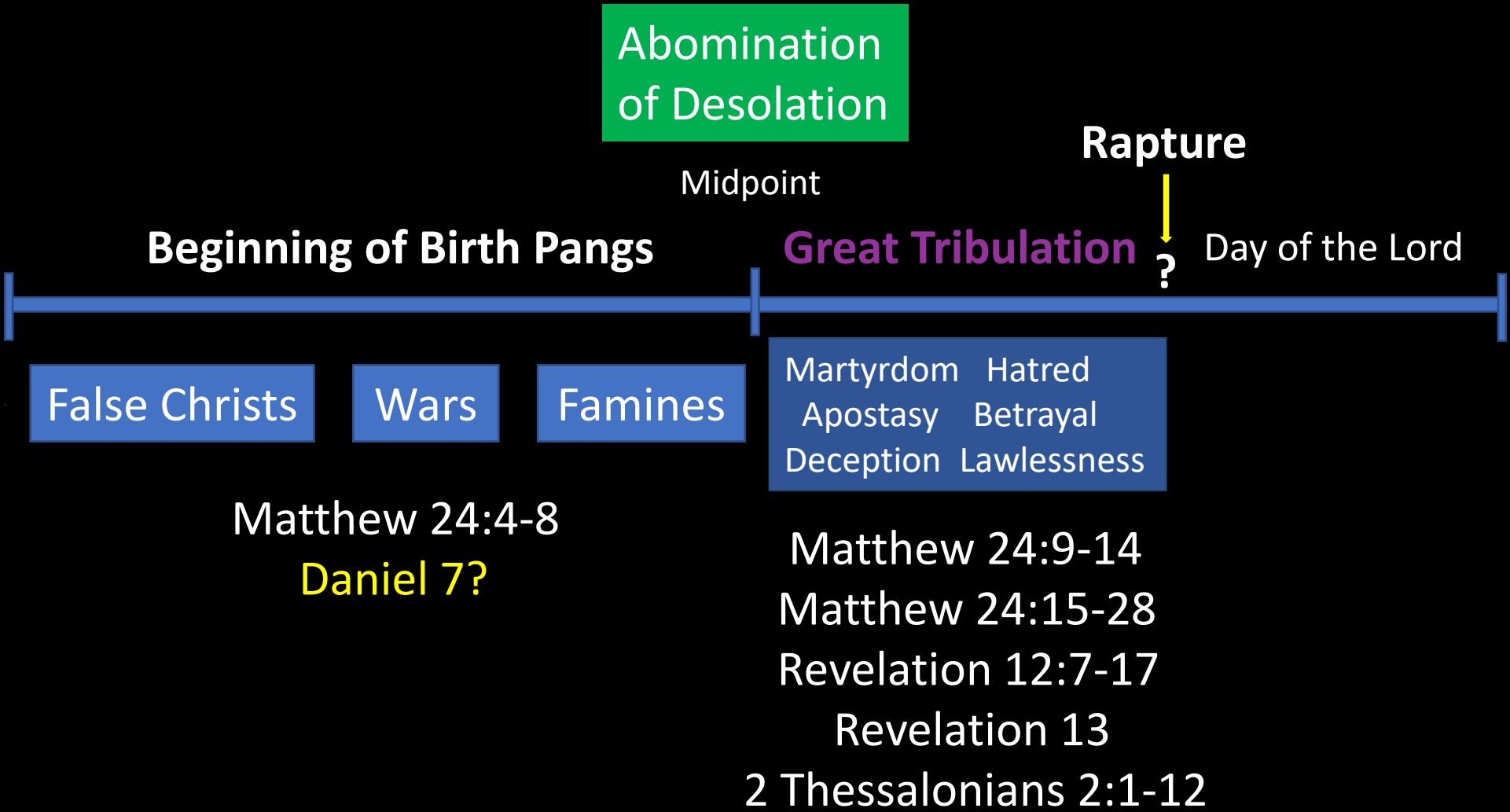
- Most comes from misunderstanding the stone in Daniel 2
- Another problem is the timing of the kingdoms
- For Daniel 2 and 7 to be the same, the kingdoms would have to follow each other chronologically in time, one after the other
- But the text seems to indicate that the Daniel 7 beast kingdoms are all on Earth at the same time instead of one after another like in Daniel 2

Daniel 7:11-12 - I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

- Almost everyone agrees that the beast that was killed is the Antichrist
- But the other 3 beasts seem to be still around after that
- It doesn't fit that Babylon or Medo-Persia is still hanging around at that time

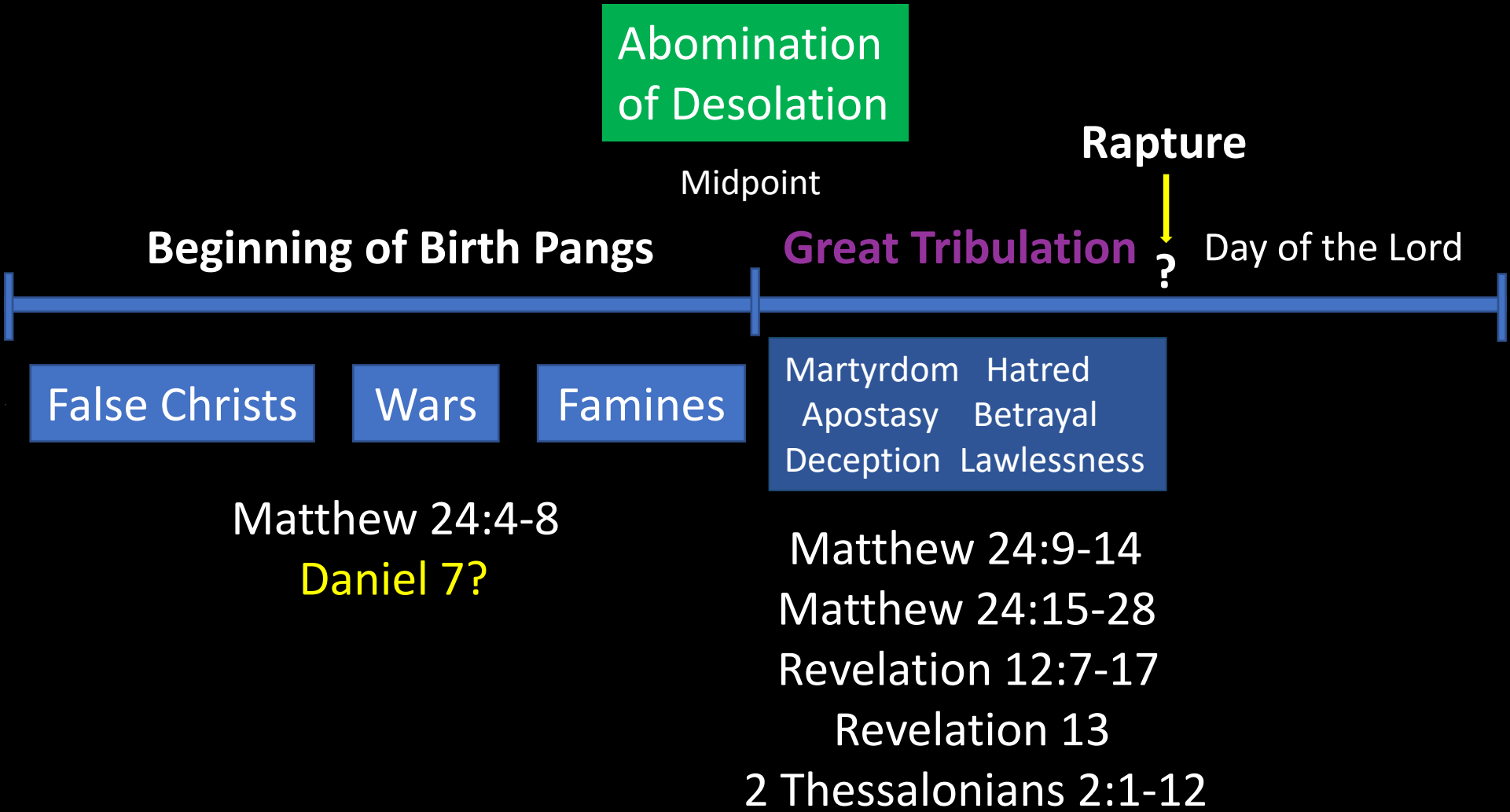
Daniel 7

- I believe that this vision is a picture of what will be happening on the Earth when the Antichrist begins his reign
- All 4 of these kingdoms will come onto the world scene at the same time
- I think the bible actually gives us a small glimpse of how to recognize the beginning, middle, and end of his rule
- **Daniel 7** is the beginning



Matthew 24:4-8

And Jesus answered them, See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of **wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not alarmed, for **this must take place**, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and **kingdom against kingdom**, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.



Daniel 7

- There is a dividing of the world into 4 parts before the Antichrist begins his rule
- The Antichrist will take control of one of those kingdoms (10 rulers/horns)
- Eventually, he will conquer all 4 kingdoms through war and rule the entire Earth
- This initial ruling over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Earth lines up well with the 4th seal

Revelation 6:7-8

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, Come! 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And **they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill** with sword and with famine and with pestilence and **by wild beasts of the earth.**

Daniel 7

- I believe **Daniel 11:36-45** describes to us some of the details of the wars that will take place as the Antichrist conquers the other 3 kingdoms
- Then **Revelation 13** shows us the final result

Revelation 13:1-4

And I saw a **beast** rising out of the sea, **with ten horns and seven heads**, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 **And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth.** And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, **Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?**

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Revelation 13



- So I see **Daniel 7** as the beginning of the Antichrist's time
- If we use the bible to help us interpret the imagery in this passage it becomes simpler to understand
- **V.2-3** – All 4 kingdoms arise at the same time, suddenly on the world scene
- The four winds means the four corners of the Earth
- The great sea usually means humanity
- The phrase “were stirring up” means bursting forth suddenly in Aramaic
- I think the description of each beast gives us a feel for what each kingdom is like
- **V.4a.** - The characteristic of the first kingdom is it is strong and swift

2 Samuel 1:23

Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were **swifter** than **eagles**;
they were **stronger** than **lions**.

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- **V.4b.** - This kingdom had it's swiftness taken away and it's boldness (lion heart) removed
- **V.5** – Almost every time in scripture a bear is pictured, it is being deprived of it's cubs

Hosea 13:7-8

So I am to them like a lion;
like a leopard I will lurk beside the way.
8 I will fall upon them like a **bear robbed of her cubs**;
I will tear open their breast,
and there I will devour them like a lion,
as a wild beast would rip them open.

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- Maybe this kingdom acts out of a perceived threat or acts defensively

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- **V.6** – Leopards tear things into pieces (**Jeremiah 5:6**), swift (**Habakkuk 1:8**), and they lie in wait for their prey (**Hosea 13:7**).
- This kingdom probably is a very fast moving nation of 4 leaders that has the characteristic of lying in wait or being patient before attacking

- V.7 – The only description is that it is terrifying, exceedingly strong, and different
- That it's different from the beasts "before" it, is in the spatial sense, not chronologically
- "it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet"
- What was left represents everything the first 3 beasts do not control
- In other words, these 4 kingdoms divide up the world
- This is what the beginning of the end looks like
- Obviously if we were doing an in depth study of Daniel we would say more, but our study is on how Daniel relates to the gospel
- So how does any of this bring us to the gospel? Salvation?

Daniel 7:9-14

- The dominion of the beasts and the suffering they bring serves a purpose for God's plan
- But God will permanently judge the beasts (kingdoms) one day
- God is presented here in a judgment scene
- God is seated in judgement with a river of fire to judge the beasts who destroyed His creation
- The Son of Man approaches God the Father and Jesus is given dominion, glory, and a kingdom...*all through judgement*
- Certain aspects of the gospel can only come through judgement

Salvation will come through judgement

- This new kingdom will bring salvation to the Earth
- How do you end sin and evil?
- By judging the beast kingdoms, God can establish His kingdom
- The judgement removes every other kingdom so that only God's kingdom remains
- From our perspective, we usually see salvation as being saved from judgement
- But Daniel explains to us that the Son of Man will bring salvation through judgement
- It must happen
- Judgement brings an end to sin and evil
- If evil is never punished, good never triumphs
- If evil is never removed, salvation can never come

Mercy will be given judgement

- Even though the beast kingdoms are judged, God the Father gives The Son of Man a people
- Out of those same nations that are judged, are a people that are shown mercy and are given to The Son of Man
- Without judgement there is no salvation
- But if judgement removes everyone, then salvation can only be enjoyed by God
- God's desire is to be with us, to have a people
- The only way to do that is to destroy everything that is evil, and show mercy to those that truly desire Him

