

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Zechariah*

*Zechariah Message 2*

*Introduction & Times of Gentiles Part II*



The Four Chariots of Zechariah 6 by Donna Johnson

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# Pentwater Bible Church

**The Book of Zechariah**  
**Message Two**  
**Introduction and the Times of the Gentiles Part II**  
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Daniel E. Woodhead

## THE TRAMPLING OF JERUSALEM

Luke 21:24

*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled (KJV).*

## THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES IS A LONG PERIOD OF TIME

The Times of the Gentiles is that long period of time from the Babylonian captivity until the Second Coming of Jesus where the Gentiles have been in control of Jerusalem. During this time, the Gentiles [have had and will have] control over the city of Jerusalem. There has been only a few times of temporary [or partial] Jewish control over the city:

Maccabean Period (164-63 B.C.).

First Jewish Revolt against Rome (A.D. 66-70)

The second Jewish Revolt which was the Bar-Cochba Revolt against Rome (A.D. 132-135)

Since the 1967 Six-Day War which is still only temporary, because Jerusalem will continue] be trodden down by the Gentiles for at least another 3 years during the Tribulation (Revelation 11:1-2)

## THE KINGDOMS OF DANIEL CHAPTER 2 OUTLINE

The Babylonian Empire starting in 605 B.C.

The Medo-Persian Empire about 539 B.C.

The Hellenistic Empire about

The Fourth Empire, Imperialism

The United Stage.

The Ten Division Stage

The Messianic Kingdom



### **The Four Visions Daniel Saw, Daniel 7:1-14:**

Now the first vision was of Nebuchadnezzar's. The next vision is one that God provided directly to Daniel.

Daniel 7:1-6

*<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream and told the sum of the matters. <sup>2</sup> Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of heaven brake forth upon the great sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. <sup>4</sup> The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon two feet as a man; and a man's heart was given to it. <sup>5</sup> And, behold, another beast, a second, like to a bear; and it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. <sup>6</sup> After this I beheld, and, lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon its back four wings of a bird; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. (ASV 1901).*

#### THE FIRST VISION, FOUR WINDS AND FOUR BEASTS

After giving the time and location of the four visions (v.1), in verses 2-6 the *first vision* is

described. It begins with vision of the Great Sea (the Mediterranean) representing the Gentile world (Is. 17:12-13; Matthew 13:47-50; Revelation 13:1; 17:1, 15), troubled by the four winds (v.2). The number is the same as the Gentile empires, while the winds themselves point to God's sovereignty and providence. Suddenly, four beasts arise from this sea, each one different from the other. Suddenly, four beasts arise from the Mediterranean Sea, each one different from the other (v.3). All four are Gentile and all four arise out of the Mediterranean area. We can keep that in mind that these four beasts are going to come out of the Great Sea. Somehow they are going to come out of this Gentile dominion.

The First Beast – lion like and eagle winged (v.4), representing the Babylonian Empire (Jeremiah 4:7; 48:40; 49:19,22; 50:17; 44; Ezekiel 17:3).

As depicted on the gates of Ishtar, the Babylonian winged lion can be viewed at the British Museum, or the University of Chicago. The latter part of verse four is probably a reference to Nebuchadnezzar's experience recorded in Daniel 4:1-37. We remember that in Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar, filled with pride is considering all that he had done and all he had built, and Babylon was the splendor of the ancient world. In doing this he was filled with pride and this was after having seen what Daniel can do and after knowing Daniel's God and after believing that Daniel's God was very, very, powerful. By denying Daniel's God, the Lord changed him into, behavior like unto an animal. He ate grass, he walked on all fours, and his nails grew exceedingly long. He was out of his normal mind for seven years.

As much as possible that a man could become a beast, Nebuchadnezzar become one. And as much as a beast could become a man, the same thing happened to Babylon. So did Babylon eventually lose its beast-like nature as it moved from lust-of-conquest to the building of culture. They excelled in the arts of divination, astronomy, astrology, accounting, mathematics and private and commercial law. Most of what we use today in Business and Commerce Law came from Babylon. They became too peaceful. It was easy for the Medes to take them over. There wasn't a struggle; they became a more peaceful group near the end of their existence.

#### THE SECOND BEAST HAD RIBS FOR DINNER

The second beast is bear-like and represents the Medo-Persian Empire (v.5). The bear is lopsided, being raised up one side; for although the Medes and the Persians were confederate, the Persians were by far the dominant power and it was a lopsided alliance. Furthermore the bear is found to have three ribs in its mouth, having devoured the flesh. Historically, these ribs represent the three kingdoms conquered by the Medo-Persian forces giving them their empire status; Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt. The bear is less majestic than the lion and is bulky and weighty. Medo-Persia conquered by sheer force of numbers. They had this huge army, much larger than the other countries they conquered



Image from Bible prophecy 101 accessed on May 11, 2013  
<http://bibleprophecyapture101.blogspot.com/2012/05/daniels-vision-of-future-daniel-71-28.html>

### THE THIRD BEAST, LEOPARD LIKE WITH 4 WINGS AND 4 HEADS

The third beast is leopard-like and it represents the Hellenistic Empire (v.6). The leopard is less majestic than the lion and less grand than the bear but is swifter than both. With leopard-like swiftness Alexander the Great conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and greatly extended the Hellenistic Empire. He conquered extremely fast. There are thousands and thousands of scholarly articles written about him and about how fast he moved and the strategy he employed. He developed the military flanks and other superior military stratagems. He just didn't live very long; he died in Babylon in his early 30's. So with leopard-like swiftness Alexander conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and extended the Hellenistic Empire.

The four wings represent the swiftness of Alexander in conquering all other empires and the four heads represent the four generals who after the death of Alexander took control of Alexander's Empire and turned it into four kingdoms.

Ptolemy was over Egypt, Israel, and Arabia Petrea – that's on the east side of Israel  
Seleucus was over Syria, Babylon, and as far to the east as India  
Cassandra was over Macedonia and Greece;  
Lysimachus was over Thrace and Bithinia.

THE FOURTH BEAST WAS DREADFUL, TERRIBLE, AND STRONG

Daniel 7:7-14

*<sup>7</sup>After this I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, a fourth beast, terrible and powerful, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup>I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. <sup>9</sup>I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. <sup>10</sup>A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup>I beheld at that time because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given to be burned with fire. <sup>12</sup>And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. <sup>13</sup>I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. <sup>14</sup>And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed (ASV 1901).*

THE SECOND VISION, THE FOURTH BEAST

The *second vision* that Daniel had is found in verses 7-8, describes the fourth beast. Unlike the others, it is nondescript. While the others are given animal-like descriptions, there isn't anything to this one at all, it's just a beast. This fourth beast is described as being diverse, emphatically different from all the others. It completely subdues and breaks in pieces all that precedes it. It appears far more ferocious than the previous three

empires. The fourth beast has ten horns. But while it begins with ten horns, an eleventh horn arises - *the little horn*. This 11<sup>th</sup> horn uproots or pulls out three of the ten horns. Having uprooted three horns, now only seven of the original remain, and the little horn which was the eleventh now becomes the eighth.

Once again, as in Daniel two, the uniqueness of the Fourth Empire is emphasized; it is stated that this empire will go through several stages. The interpretation will be discussed later. But for now it is enough to note that the fourth beast does represent a Fourth Gentile Empire. Nowhere in the text does it say that those other empires cease to exist. They all continue to do so even to today.

#### THE THIRD VISION, THE ACTIVITY IN HEAVEN

##### Daniel 7:9-12

*<sup>9</sup>I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. <sup>10</sup>A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup>I beheld at that time because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given to be burned with fire. <sup>12</sup>And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (ASV 1901).*

The *third vision* is found in verses 9-12 and this vision takes place in Heaven. In verses 9-10 the vision is of the Throne Room of God the Father who is described under the title of the Ancient of Days. This is the only spot in the Bible where He is referred to as the Ancient of Days. It is very clear who he is; He is a Judge, and the books of judgment are opened. There are myriads of Angels present – thousands upon thousands, 10,000 X 10,000 that are in front of Him and He is carrying out these judgments through the angels.

What is being judged is the Fourth Gentile Empire (vv.11-12). In verse 11, it is the fourth beast, particularly the little horn that is judged and destroyed. As for the other three (v.12), two things are stated; first, their dominion was taken away; and second, their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. This means that they have not been completely eradicated but continue albeit without the dominating power they had over the entire world. The third vision is of God the Father ready to move out in judgment against the Fourth Gentile Empire. He's not actually conducting judgments, but He's ready to move out in judgment.

## THE FOURTH VISION AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### Daniel 7:13-14

*<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. <sup>14</sup>And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed (ASV 1901).*

The *fourth vision* is found within verses 13-14. It describes the setting up of the Kingdom of God following the destruction of the Fourth Gentile Empire. The sequence is that of the Second Coming (v.13) followed by the Messianic Empire or the Messianic Kingdom (v.14).

Of the four visions described the major emphasis is on the fourth one. Now Daniel asks for an interpretation of the four kingdoms. He wants to know, who's going to possess the Kingdom. He sees that possession **of the Kingdom** will only be temporary. Whereas the four beasts rose out of the sea, here they arise out of the earth in this vision. Coming out of the sea emphasizes their Gentile identity. But, coming out of the earth identifies their humanity. None of the first three empires are divine.

So Daniel requests further interpretation. It is not clear who he is requesting this from but it is presumably the Angels that are before the throne of God. In making this request, he describes what he saw regarding the four beasts. It is important to note how the diverseness of this fourth beast continues to be emphasized. Throughout the scriptures it is emphasized as being "diverse" – different from the others. The beasts are not given an animal-like characteristic. But Daniel wants to know what it means so he pushes for a meaning. So in requesting this, he is given further information regarding the activity of the Little Horn that causes the three horns from the original 10 to be pulled out or eliminated and the Little Horn becomes the eighth horn.

### DANIEL SEEKS CLARIFICATION ON THE FOUR BEASTS DAN 7:15-24

#### THE FOUR BEASTS

### Daniel 7:15-18

*<sup>15</sup>As for me, Daniel, my spirit was grieved in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. <sup>16</sup>I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. <sup>17</sup>These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, that shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. (ASV 1901).*



After Daniel requested the interpretation in verses 15-16, he is given a summary of interpretation in verses 17-18. In verse 17, this angel tells him that they're the four beasts that represent four kingdoms that we saw in the four segments of the image. Nevertheless, it is the servants of the Most High who will possess the kingdom, for whatever will be possessed by the four Gentile empires will be only temporary (v.18). We have seen that the Jews, the servants, have possessed the city of Jerusalem only temporarily from time to time. Whereas in Daniel chapter 2, the four beasts arose out of the sea, here in Daniel chapter 7 they arise out of the earth. Coming out of the sea emphasizes their Gentile identity. Arising out of the *earth* emphasizes their humanity; these are human, not divine kingdoms. These things don't last.

#### THE DIVERSENESS OF THE FOURTH BEAST

Daniel 7:19-22

*<sup>19</sup>Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was diverse from all of them, exceeding terrible, whose teeth were of iron, and its nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet; <sup>20</sup>and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows. <sup>21</sup>I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; <sup>22</sup>until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom (ASV 1901).*

Having received this summary interpretation in verses 19-22, Daniel requests further interpretation regarding the fourth beast. In making this request Daniel describes what he saw regarding the fourth beast. In verse 19, its diverseness is pointed out. It is important to note how the diverseness of the Fourth Empire is continually emphasized.

For this diverseness Daniel seeks a meaning. He further wishes to know the meaning of the ten horns (v.20a) and finally the little horn (vv.20b-22). In requesting this, Daniel is given further information regarding the activity of the little horn; he causes three of the ten horns to fall (v.20b); he speaks great things (v.20c); he wars against the saints and is allowed to prevail over them (v.21). But finally the coming of the Ancient of Days personally defeats him. Once the judgment is passed on the little horn by the Ancient of Days, he will be done away with and the kingdom will pass over to the saints. The saints are the nation of Israel, not the Church. This is the Old Testament and the Church was not born yet (Acts 2). The ten horns are ten nations that will encompass this Roman Empire, yet future to us.

#### THE LITTLE HORN

The little horn is the Antichrist who will appear someday on the earth. He will sign a covenant with the nation Israel. It will be some type of covenant. We don't know what it

is or what it's about but he signs it with the majority of the Jews. Not all the Jews, but enough to get this thing signed – that begins the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation begins when the covenant is signed and it's a seven-year covenant. The Rapture of the Church takes place before that. That is not the trigger for us to leave. There is no description anywhere in the Bible about when the Rapture takes place – it's unknown. We know that at some point in time, the Tribulation is going to start. The seven-year war is going to start with this covenant that gets signed. Daniel talks about the Ancient of Days judging the Antichrist and he gets thrown into the lake of fire at the end the Great Tribulation along with the False Prophet.

## THE STAGES OF THE FOURTH BEAST

Daniel 7:23-26

*<sup>23</sup>Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. <sup>24</sup>And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings <sup>25</sup>And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time. <sup>26</sup>But the judgment shall be set, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end (ASV 1901).*

Having made his request, in verses 23-26 Daniel is given the interpretation of the fourth beast. As in Daniel 2, the Fourth Empire is seen as going through several stages, though not always the same stages as found in chapter two.

The First Stage of the fourth beast in verse 23a, is described as the “United Stage” and it's diverseness from the other three empires is seen. It's followed by

The Second Stage of a one world government, because it states (verse 23b) that this beast is going to devour the whole earth. This is still future to us. It is going to consume the entire earth; it will be under the rule of this one world government. Whether people will choose to respond to it or not, that will be something else, but at least it will have governmental control of all countries in the entire world. Then it's going to be followed by:

The Ten Kingdom Stage of some sort (v. 24a), which, in turn, will be followed by

The Little Horn Stage, or the Antichrist stage (vv. 24b-26) These verses state that he arises after the Ten Division Stage (v. 24b). While the Fourth Empire is diverse from the previous three, the little horn is diverse from the other ten (v. 24c). He eventually puts down three of these kings (v. 24d). Verse 25 again points out his “speaking great things” as seen here is his speaking against God and against the saints. Anti-Semitism is ramped

today and it gets even worse

## ACTIVITIES OF THE ANTICHRIST

### A DIFFERENT CALENDAR

The Antichrist somehow is going to implement a different calendar. Somehow he is going to change the way time is recorded and the way a calendar measures time. Presently we use a Roman calendar, which was from a Babylonian system. The Babylonian system used a 360-day calendar. The calendar was adjusted to accommodate the extra days needed and we are on a Roman calendar now. The Julian calendar, named after Julius Caesar, is still 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> minutes longer than the actual solar year.

In the French Revolution they tried to change the calendar, they tried to change the seasons and they tried to change the hours in the day. That's where the metric system came from. They tried to change measurements too. The Antichrist is going to do all of this. He's going to change time, the recording of time, and he's going to change the way we monitor seasons

### THE REIGN OF THE ANTICHRIST

The Antichrist will only be allowed to rule for *a time, times and half a time*, which from other passages (Dan 9:27; 12:7; Rev 11:2,3; 12:6, 14; 13:5) means 3 ½ years. But finally his domination is destroyed (v.26).

### THE COMBINED PROGRESSION OF EMPIRES

1. The Babylonian Empire.
2. The Medo-Persian Empire
  - a. The Hellenistic Empire or the Greek Empire The United Stage that was under Alexander the Great
  - b. The Four Division Stage, which was under his four generals after he died.
3. The Fourth Empire – has been called the Roman Empire but it is better referred to as the Age of Imperialism or the Empire of Imperialism. Remember, Nebuchadnezzar's image that he saw in a dream was that of a man. Daniel's image was that of a beast. By looking at those two passages we saw that the empire was the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire was second, the Hellenistic Empire was third and [this Empire] had at two stages.
  - a. The United Stage-The Roman Empire
  - b. The Two Division Stage-The East-West Balance of Power, and that's what's that we are living with today. We are living the results of the Roman Empire dying and where the power shifted. When Valentinian split the Roman Empire we saw:
    - i. The Eastern Division or power stayed in Constantinople – this is modern day Istanbul, and it stayed there until the

Turks took over when the Turks took over the scribes and the prophets and the government officials, and so on, they ran up into a Russia, and they infiltrated the government there, and they set up their form of government, an imperialistic form of government. The leaders of the government started calling themselves Czars. The word czar is a Russian word, which means 'Caesar'.

- ii. The Western Division or Power Something quite similar happened in the West. The power stayed in Rome and ultimately transferred over time into the democratic nations of the West and they have control now on the Western side. The German name Kaiser is the same as the Latin Caesar.
  - c. The One-World Government Stage At some point in the future, this is all going to coalesce into a One World Government.
  - d. The Antichrist Stage- Absolute Imperialism The Ten Kingdoms. Out of the One World Government Stage will come ten Confederation of Nations that will exist at the same time; They will each have their own King; and this Confederation will cover the entire earth. So, it's not going to be the European Common Market. It's not going to be anything like that unless that radically changes. We don't know what it is. We just know that the entire world is going to be divided up somehow into ten political regions or ten geographic areas with 10 independent kings.
  - e. The Antichrist Stage – Absolute Imperialism. Out of that will come the Antichrist, and this will be the final stage there before the Lord sets up His Kingdom. The Antichrist Stage will be one of absolute imperialism on the whole world where he is the sole ruler.
4. The Messianic Kingdom

NEXT WEEK: THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES COMPLETION AND BOOK OUTLINE

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**

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