

TUESDAY NIGHT

at the
Crescent

"The Shape of things to come"

An in-depth Study of the Book of Daniel

Subject: "God has no problems, only plans"

A study of Daniel chapter 7 and God's view of Gentile Governments.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1989

1. It is vital to see that the imagery of beasts in this chapter is not a code. The imagery is a message in itself. Notice the same method is used to describe Christ in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 5:5 and 6).
2. Many commentators have given their views as to the identity of the four beasts. Some suggest that:
 - (a) The lion is the Babylonian empire (7:4; cf 2; 37-38).
 - (b) The lopsided bear is the Medo- Persian empire in which the Persians were stronger than the Medes (7; 5cf 2; 39a).
 - (c) The four headed leopard is the Greek empire under Alexander the Great and the four kings after him who subdivided the Grecian empire (7; 6; cf2; 39b).
 - (d) The II horned beast is Rome and the Western nations that grew out of it (7:7; cf2; 40-43) i.e. First Rome and than a worldwide empire possessing distinctive characteristics of Rome's power and prestige but surpassing Rome's ancient boundaries. From this 10 kings will arise, united politically, economically and militarily. A leader will emerge from their midst and take control of 3 of these nations in his rise to world domination. This is Anti-Christ (2Thess 2; 3-10; Rev. 13, 17) to be put down by Christ returning in power to establish his millenium kingdom (Dan. 7: 13-14, 26-27; cf Rev. 19: 11-20:2).
3. Whatever your view of the identity of these beasts this passage is God's critique of Gentile government;
 - (a) Their fatal flaw is their hideous strength and a-moral stance.
 - (b) They have humane characteristics (v4,8).
4. The Final Ruler will certainly intend to change times and laws. This could well include genetic engineering; people being people by the permission of the state, defining health by the standards of the state and its philosophy and not by the laws of God Almighty (7:25).
5. The lovely Son of man and his kingdom, the running of which will be given to "the saints" (v13-14 and 26-27). God is now preparing his saints for that time and behaviour is very important. Please note the seriousness of Galatians 5:15).

"That day lies hid that every day we be on the watch."

(Augustine).

