Dreams of Daniel

There are several dreams and visions of the apocalyptic nature in the

book of Daniel. This study will discuss two dreams found in chapters

2 and 7. Daniel Chapter 2 begins with Nebuchadnezzar, the king of

Babylon, having a prophetic dream. Nebuchadnezzar was troubled

by the dream, for he knew it was significant, but could not remember

what the dream actually was. Daniel, a captive Jewish prophet, was

shown the dream and given the interpretation by God. Upon sharing

the dream and interpretation with the king, Daniel was promoted in

the kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the God of Daniel as

“the God of gods Who reveals secrets.” What was the dream that

Daniel interpreted? What the king had seen was a great image or

idol made of various metals. “This image’s head was of fine gold, his

breast and his arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass, his legs

of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.” vs. 32, 33. A stone cut

without hands struck the image and destroyed it. The stone then became

a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The interpretation given to Daniel was that the golden head of the

image symbolized Nebuchadnezzar and the glorious Babylonian

Kingdom. His dominion was over all peoples of the world. The

silver chest and arms symbolized a kingdom not quite as glorious

as Babylon that would arise in Babylon’s stead. This describes the

Medio-Persian Empire. The two arms indicate two spheres of power

in this joint Medes and Persian kingdom. The third world power

to arise was the Greek empire. Alexander the Great supplanted the

Medio-Persian Empire in his zeal to conquer the world. The brass

symbolized the Greek Empire as being inferior in glory to the previous

silver kingdom of the Medes and Persians. However, the Greek

empire would still “bear rule over all the earth.” (v.39.)

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The fourth kingdom “shall be strong as iron.” This was the Roman

Empire. Since Rome was primarily known for its military might and

power, iron was a fitting symbol. The two iron legs represented the

Eastern and Western Roman empires. After the iron legs were feet

and toes of iron mixed with clay. This symbolized a futuristic extension

of the Roman Empire, in that the element iron is still used. But

the fact that it is mixed with clay indicates this futuristic empire would

not have the solid unity as had the historic Roman Empire. Rather, the

mixture of iron and clay indicate strength, but still some autonomy

maintained in the various members of the empire (v. 42.) The nations

of this last day, revived Roman Empire would maintain their nationalistic

identity, but would “mingle” (or associate freely) with the other

member nations (v.43.) The ten toes indicate 10 “kings” (rulers of spheres of power) within the boundsof the Old Holy Roman Empire which unite as a world power. An

obvious present day fulfillment of this is the European Economic

Community, or the “EU” (European Union.) They freely mingle with

member nations (no tariffs or visas), but still maintain their national

identity. They have a common currency (“Euro-dollar”.) And, these

entities are within the bounds of the Old Holy Roman Empire. The

10 toes of the vision could like the 10 voting member nations of the

WEU’s Security Council (those that had authority over military issues

of the WEU—not necessarily separate countries, but spheres of influence.)

This 10 member dominion will eventually “give their power”

to the anti-Christ when he arises to pursue world domination. (Rev.

17:12, 13.)

The stage is set for the European Community to receive this political

and economic “hero”, as many Europeans are calling for centralized

leadership for the EU. The exciting part of this scenario is that “in

the days of these kings (EU leaders) shall the God of heaven set up a

kingdom which shall never be destroyed.” (v.44) In other words, the

leaders of these member nations will still be in power when Jesus returns

to set up His Kingdom. The prophetic stage is set. Jesus’ coming

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is soon. First He will rapture His Church to heaven (I Thes. 4:14-18).

After that is the 7 year rule of the anti-Christ. Then Jesus returns

with His Church to set up His earthly kingdom...all in the context

of “in the days of these kings.” In summary, this dream’s interpretation

shows a historical, panoramic view of the world’s four great

empires—Babylon, Medio-Persia, Greece, and Rome. In each case

the ruling empire was supplanted by the subsequent world empire.

However, the revived Roman Empire (symbolized by iron and clay)

is considered an extension of the ancient Roman Empire, and so did

not supplant it. It is part of the fourth “iron” kingdom.

The dream of Daniel Chapter 7 is often times compared to that of

Chapter 2. In fact, because of many similarities, many interpret the

two dreams as being one in the same (that is, the four historical world

empires mentioned before.) However, there are some very important

distinctions. The main difference is that Ch. 2 deals primarily with

historical empires, and Ch. 7 discusses contemporary world powers.

In both cases, however, the dreams culminate with the destruction

of the anti-Christ’s domain and Jesus establishing His Kingdom on

earth. In comparing the dreams, the first obvious difference is that of

the symbolism. Chapter 2 compares the world kingdoms to various

types of metals. Chapter 7 also deals with four world powers, but

they are represented by different types of beasts. Another important

difference is that the four kingdoms of Ch. 2 exist at different periods

of time, historically spanning hundreds of years. One kingdom

succeeds the other (Medo-Persia following Babylonian, for example.)

The domains of power in Ch. 7 exist simultaneously, and in different

geographical areas. When Daniel wrote the dreams, both Babylon

and the Medes and Persian powers were established. (He wrote

one during Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, and one during Belshazzar’s

reign-7:1.) Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon to reign before

Darius the Mede took over (Daniel 5:30, 31.) But in interpreting the

identity of the four beasts of Ch. 7, Daniel was told these are four

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kings or dominions which “SHALL arise out of the earth” (Dan. 7:16,

17.) Obviously, the four beasts cannot be the same dominions of Ch.

2. They are futuristic kingdoms that exist concurrently.

Both dreams describe the anti-Christ’s kingdom taking over the world.

But in Chapter 2, the three previous world powers do not exist at the

time of the anti-Christ dominion. However, in Daniel 7:7, it discusses

how the anti-Christ overtakes the three other world powers (beasts).

These kingdoms continue to exist, though absorbed into the anti-

Christ’s dominion. As soon as the anti-Christ is destroyed (7:11, 12),

these three kingdoms are allowed to again exist as separate entities.

Most obviously, Babylon, Medes & Persia, Greece and Ancient Rome

do not fit into this scenario. They did not exist concurrently as world

powers, and no longer exist for the anti-Christ to take them over in

the last days.

What are the identities, then, of the four beasts (kingdoms) mentioned

in Daniel Chapter 7? The fourth beast’s identity is easy to interpret.

Daniel 7:7 states that the fourth beast has 10 horns. Revelation 13:1

describes a beast with 10 horns that is the kingdom over which the anti-

Christ reigns. These ten horns correspond to the 10 toes of Chapter

2 (ten countries/spheres of power) in the bounds of the old Holy

Roman Empire.) So, the fourth beast is the domain of the European

Union over which the anti-Christ will rule. This power eventually

overtakes three other global powers and then, all the world. Daniel

7:7 describes the 4th beast as having “teeth of iron.” This is further

indication that the 4th beast represents the revived Roman Empire,

since iron is the element used to represent Rome in Ch. 2. The EU

countries began to unite in 1957 under the “Treaty of Rome”, which

encouraged Western European countries to trade and establish closer

ties and unity.

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The power base from which the anti-Christ will reign is the EU, established

Jan. 1, 1993. Because the three other beasts (kingdoms)

exist concurrently with this fourth beast (the EU), the other kingdoms

are dominions which must exist today as well. Their identities can

be ascertained by comparing scripture and historical facts. Here is

Daniel’s description of the beasts in 7:2, 3:

“Daniel spoke and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the

four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great

beasts come up from the sea, diverse one from another.”

Firstly, the “four winds of the heaven” are mentioned. Since satan

is called the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) and we

“wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12), it

seems evident that these are demonic spirits. These spirits seem to

control the emergence of the 4 beasts (dominions of world power.)

These could correspond to the same demonic angels which are

loosed in Rev. 9:14, 15, and to the 4 demonic spirits of destruction

mentioned in Zech. 6:5. In any case, these 4 spirits over the 4 beasts

(spheres of power) were striving over the great sea (v. 2) These four

great beasts come up from the sea (v.3). According to Revelation 13:1

and Rev. 17:15, the “sea” represents “peoples, and multitudes, and

nations, and tongues.” These beasts are dominions which come from

the various peoples and nations of the world and are different from

one another.

The first beast emerges in verse 4: “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 stand upon the feet as a man, and

a man’s heart was given to it” Notice the word “first.” God is giving

us the chronological order in which these dominions emerge. The

lion with eagle’s wings is the first dominion to become an established

power. What does the “lion” represent? According to Ezekiel 38:13,

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Spain and its colonized lands are called lions: “and the merchants of

Tarshish, [famous trade city of Spain] with all the young lions thereof.”

Here we see that the colonized lands of Spain—the offspring or

“young lions”—are symbolized by a lion. It is not coincidental that

Spain’s state flag bears the emblem of a lion on its coat of arms. And

so, given only the “lion” clue alone, it seems that Spain or the new

lands it colonized is inferred here. When the lion symbol is combined

with the “eagle’s wings, it becomes evident that the new world, (the

Western Hemisphere including the United States) is the proper interpretation.

The New World democracies were originally discovered

and colonized by Spain, and can be symbolized by the “lion.” The

“eagle’s wings” represent the United States, whose national emblem

is the bald eagle. The fact that these are mentioned show that the US

is a prominent member of the New World (Western democracies)

Dominion. This Western sphere of power could be fulfilled in NAFTA

(the North American Free Trade Agreement.) Although the US and its

other Western Hemisphere neighbors have had trade relationships

for some time now, they were not considered a world trading entity.

But, in order to compete with the EU, they have officially united as a

world trade power under the NAFTA agreement. This union of New

World countries into a powerful trading alliance seems to fulfill the

symbol of the lion with eagle’s wings “kingdom.”

One disconcerting aspect of verse 4 is the phrase “the wings thereof

were plucked.” Since plucking an eagle’s wings would result in

its ultimate death, it is evident that the eagle is going to incur severe,

if not deadly, judgment. Many find it hard to believe that God

could allow the United States (“one nation under God”) to be judged.

America was founded on God’s Word and the principles thereof.

However, to whom much is given, much is required. God expects

more righteousness and truth in America where the Gospel has had

free reign. But, rather than growing closer to God, America has degenerated

socially, morally and spiritually despite of all the exposure

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to the Gospel. Obviously there are many dedicated Christians in

the US, but the majority of the people have rejected God to follow

their own lusts. In His love, God will allow judgment to fall to draw

them to repentance. That is the pattern He used throughout the Old

Testament when dealing with Israel’s rebellion. Christians can and

should pray for judgment to be averted or delayed, but when rebellion

has festered to a certain point, judgment is inevitable. Indications

of the “point of no return” are blatant homosexuality (Gen 18, 19),

and disregard for human life, especially innocent babies and children

(Jer.32:35.) Christians can claim II Chronicles 7:14 for their individual

“land” and Psalm 91 for protection, even if the world around them

must be judged.

There are other indications in scripture that America will be judged.

One significant point is that nowhere in the book of Revelation is

the United States alluded to, though the other world powers are

specifically mentioned. It is an ominous sign that a country of the

magnitude of the United States is not mentioned; indicating it no

longer is significant politically, economically, or militarily. Isaiah 18

indicates judgment to “the land shadowing with wings.” It is a land

“across the sea”, from Israel (which eliminates Europe, Asia, and Africa

from fulfilling this description.) The land “shadowing with wings” is

exactly how America depicts its emblem, the bald eagle, with its outstretched

wings on currency and coins, etc.

Another indication of the “eagle’s wings being plucked” (judgment on

America) is found in Ezekiel chapter 39. The preceding chapter deals

with Israel back in their land in the “latter days”, v. 16. This is fulfilled

now. Then it describes how Russian and Arab nations allied together

would attack Israel during a time of pseudo-peace (38:11.) As the

Word of God clearly states, when they shall cry “peace and safety”

(the two main tenets of any peace treaty being proposed for Israel

and its militant Arab neighbors) there would be “sudden destruction.”

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(I Thes. 5:1, 2) God will supernaturally come to Israel’s aid, and the

Russians and their allies will be routed. In the context of this surprise

attack on Israel, an interesting verse appears:

“And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly

in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezekiel

39:6)

The term “isles” in the Hebrew can also be translated “desirable

land.” God says that fire will fall on the “desirable land which dwells

carelessly.” Of all countries of the world, the United States is considered

the most desirable: it is the land of opportunity to which all

refugees desire to flee. The fact that this land is dwelling “carelessly”

indicates it is far away from and not involved in the Russia/Israeli

War (which encompasses nations from Europe, the Middle East, and

Africa.) America signed an agreement with Russia in Jan. 1994 to

no longer point their nuclear missiles at each other. This has given

America a false sense of security and a mentality that the “cold war is

over.” However, Ez. 38, 39 indicate that Russia is not the peace-loving

nation it portrays itself as being, but is ready and willing to attack innocent

targets unexpectedly. Given Russia’s track record on keeping

peace treaties it has signed, the “peace and safety” mentality of the

United States may set it up for “sudden destruction.” (I Thessalonians

5:3.) God says that those who dwell in the desirable land without

concern of war would have fire fall upon them (nuclear weapons?)

This period of Russian aggression occurs in the “latter days”, but apparently

before the 7 year tribulation, as there is no mention of it at

all in the book of the Revelation. This adds credibility to the United

States “Babylon” judgment prior to the Great Tribulation.

One of the first things that anti-Christ does at the beginning of the

7-year tribulation is to sign a covenant (probably peace treaty) with

Israel allowing for the freedom to offer sacrifices in Temple Mount.

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This is further indication that Israel has already fought Russia and its

allies prior to the 7 years, and a treaty is then signed alleviate any

further aggression from breaking out. At any rate, the scenario when

the desirable land has fire fall on it is in the “latter days” when Russia

plans a surprise attack on Israel. Of course, North Korea is a viable

nuclear threat against the United States as well. All of these scriptures

seem to indicate that the “eagle’s wings being plucked” point to coming

judgment on the United States. God help us to obey Joel 2:15-32.

After the wings of the eagle are plucked, the lion stands upon its feet

as a man and a “man’s heart” was given to it. The term “man” in this

chapter refers to the anti-Christ (v. 8.) The fact that a “man’s heart”

was given to the Western confederacy of nations could indicate their

desire toward the anti-Christ’s system and the EU Because America

will no longer be a significant entity, the members in this Western

power sphere may desire to align with the EU for security.

Continuing on, verse 5 says: “And behold another beast, a second,

like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs

in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto

it, Arise, devour much flesh.” This second beast is represented by a

bear. The “kingdom” (v.23) or dominion represented by the bear in

these latter days is Russia. God knew 2,600 years ago what symbols

the latter-day countries would be known by, and incorporated them

into Daniel’s prophecy for our understanding. The Russian bear under

Communism devoured “much flesh” ruthlessly, conquering many

peoples and lands since its inception in 1917. The 3 ribs could indicate

three geographical regions into which the Russian influence has

spread (Eastern Europe, Asia, & Africa.) The bear kingdom represents

Russia. Though Communism was officially abolished in Russia, the

post-Communist Russia still has many elements of the Communist

regime in place. Many of the present leaders and security forces are

former KGB elite. Freedom of religion is starting to erode, as many

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regulations are being implemented to restrict it’s free exercise. Russia

has ties with many Islamic nations that are hostile to Israel, and will

use her influence and military resources in the coalition that attack

Israel according to Ezekiel 38 & 39. The Russian bear will again attempt

to “arise and devour much flesh” when it attacks Israel in the

last days.

After the lion (Western powers) and the bear (Russia and its allies),

another kingdom, or domain is described. This third world power

is represented by a leopard (Daniel 7:6): “after this I beheld, and lo

another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of

a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to

it.” The term “after” indicates after the first two powers (lion & bear)

are established, another world power comes on the scene. The term

“leopard” is used here. “Leopard” could indicate that this world power

arises quickly. The term “leopard” is “namer” in Hebrew (Strong’s

#5246.) The word “namer” is derived from terms meaning to “spot”

or stain as if by dripping; (from its stripes.)” Jer.13:23 says-”shall a

leopard (#5246) change his spots.” The term spots (#2272) is “a streak

(like a line), as on the tiger.” The point here is that where the term

“leopard” is used, it is actually describing a tiger, and can accurately

be translated as such. “Namer” can be correctly translated leopard

or “tiger.”

The fact that both of these cats are indigenous to Asia gives us a clue

to the location of this third kingdom to come into power. Asia has

only recently emerged as a world trade power. The Nov. 22, 1993

edition of US News and World Report states: “Rapid growth and

industrialization have leapt ... to the ‘Four Tigers’- Singapore, Taiwan,

Hong Kong and South Korea.” It’s possible that Daniel saw the fourheaded

“namer” (tiger) representing the Asian powers. (Daniel 12:9.)

Along with the Four Tigers, four other prominent countries have arisen

(perhaps the “4 wings of a fowl”?) These are Thailand, Indonesia,

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Malaysia, and China. Along with the Four Tigers, these countries

have become members of a very powerful trading bloc called APEC

(Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation.) This Asian trade dominion

was established in 1989 (US N.&W.R., Nov.22, 1993.) According to

Revelation 16:12, there is a union of leaders from Asia (“the kings

of the East”.) This economic cooperation has bought about strong

ties between these “kings of the East” (the APEC nations.) Eventually,

they will join militarily to fulfill prophecy and come against Israel.

Daniel 7:6 states “dominion was given to it”. The term “dominion”

(Strong’s # 7985) means “empire”. And so these Asian “Kings of the

East” have an economic empire that eventually will result in their

military cooperation.

To sum it up, the first three beasts can be interpreted as follows: the

lion with eagle’s wings symbolizes a Western confederacy with the

United States as a prominent member for a time. The bear represents

Russia and her allies. The 4-headed “namer” (tiger) represents

the Asian “kings of the East.” The fourth beast is the revived Roman

Empire (also known as the European Union.) Daniel 7:7 states: “After

this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful

and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it

devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet

of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and

it had ten horns.” “After” the other three dominions are in place, the

anti-Christ will come into power over the EU. This beast is “strong

exceedingly,” which is not surprising since the combined German,

French, British and 7 other nations’ armies would make for a very

formidable military might. The EU worship the “god of forces”, and

are so proud of their military power they say: “who is like the beast?

who can make war against him?” (Rev. 13:4.) The term “iron teeth”,

again alludes to the military strength of Rome. The “teeth” indicate

that along with the military might, the anti-Christ conquers using talk.

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Daniel 11:21, 32, 34 describe the anti-Christ coming in “peaceably,”

and “obtaining the kingdom by flatteries.” So, peace-making diplomacy

is another means by which the anti-Christ gains power and

world dominion. Then the anti-Christ “devours and brakes in pieces

and stamped the residue,” (or the rest of the other beasts.) He defeats

and takes dominion over the other world powers and takes on the

attributes of those he has conquered. Revelation 13:2 describes the

anti-Christ’s kingdom after he has annexed and absorbed the three

other world powers (beasts): “And the beast which I saw was like

unto a leopard (or “tiger”), and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and

his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power,

and his seat, and great authority.” Notice the fourth beast has taken

on the characteristics of the three previous beasts after conquering

them. At the onset of the 7-year tribulation the anti-Christ begins conquering

nations (Rev. 6:2.) By the 3 1/2 year point he has all the major

world powers under his feet (Rev. 13:1, 2.)

The ten horns of Daniel 7 correspond to the ten horns of Rev. 13 and

to the ten toes described in Daniel 2. Rev. 17:12 states: “And the ten

horns which thou saw are ten kings.” These nations of the European

power base will unite wholeheartedly behind the anti-Christ (Rev.

17:13.) Verse 7:8 of Daniel says, “I considered the horns, and, behold,

there came up among them another little horn, before whom there

were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold,

in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking

great things.” The “little horn that speaks great things” refers to the

anti-Christ. Three of the first 10 horns are “plucked up by the roots.”

This means the rulers of 3 nations are somehow disposed of by the

anti-Christ. (Rev. 12:3 shows in the heavenly realm there are 10 horns

[countries/sphere of power] with only seven crowns [leaders.]) The

three crownless horns are 3 countries that have lost their leaders because

the anti-Christ supplants them. The “eyes of a man” mentioned

could relate to the all seeing eye of mystic and occult religion. The

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“eye” symbolizes knowledge and vision of the spiritual world. This

infers the anti-Christ has ties with satanic and occult practices. Daniel

8:23, Revelation 13:4, and II Thes. 2:9 all confirm satanic powers

working through the anti-Christ.

Daniel 7:9 describes the anti-Christ conquering nations with “nails

of brass.” The “brass” is reminiscent of the description of the Greek

empire of Daniel 2. The implication here is that the anti-Christ uses

some of the same techniques that Alexander the Great used to expand

and control his world empire. According to World Book (1988

ed., vol.1, pp. 346,347) Alexander encouraged unity between the nations

conquered, including the unity of ideas, customs and laws. In

addition to the obvious unity of the EU, this could also refer to the

“one world-one earth-New Age movement” mentality that is so prevalent

today. Alexander the Great also incorporated soldiers from each

of the nations he conquered into his army. The anti-Christ will also

have a multinational army. Our present UN “peace-keeping forces”

foreshadows the anti-Christ “peace-keeping” army.

Additionally, he implemented a uniform monetary system. Of course,

the EU already has that. The anti-Christ will implement one economic

system for the entire world, so that one cannot buy or sell without

the special identification “mark in the hand.” (Rev. 13:16) The “mark

of the beast” is thought by many to be microchip implants that will

be used for electronic banking, used in conjunction with the computer,

the “B.E.A.S.T.” (Brussels Electronic Accounting Surveillance

Terminal.) This main banking computer located at the EU’s headquarters

in Brussels already has the technology to monitor all financial

transactions world-wide. The microchip implants are already used in

humans (e.g., the Miami, FL family who recently volunteered to take

identification implants.)

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Lastly, Alexander encouraged the conquered people to worship him

as a god. II Thes. 2:3, 4 states: “that man of sin be revealed, the son

of perdition; who exalts himself above all that is called God, or that

is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing

himself that he is God.” As Alexander of old, through these techniques

the anti-Christ will eventually gain control of the entire world.

The anti-Christ’s dominion, however, will be short-lived. Daniel 7:9

says that the “thrones were cast down.” This means that the anti-

Christ and all the leaders with him will all be defeated. This defeat

occurs when Jesus returns with His saints at the end of the 7-year

tribulation. It is then that Christ will defeat the anti-Christ at the Battle

of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21.) Daniel 7:11 shows the anti-Christ being

thrown into the lake of fire. Daniel 7:12 mentions that the other

3 beasts (the nations described in vv. 4-6) are allowed to exist (have

“their lives prolonged”) for a “season” and a “time”. The term “season”

could correspond to that of Rev. 20:3 (when satan is allowed

to tempt the nations one last time.) Whatever the time frame, these

countries will exist, but will have their dominion taken away. Dan.

7:12-14) That is because:

“One like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and

came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before

Him. And there was given Him dominion and glory and a kingdom,

that all 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.” Jesus will take His

rightful dominion over all the earth and will rule and reign forever.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!