

**Context**

- 1] Time – Belshazzar’s (Neb’s grandson) 1<sup>st</sup> year c 552. 13 years before his fall at the great Banquet (5:1)
- 2] Daniel (c 65 yrs old?) – marginalised (5:11), exiled, Home (Jer.) in ruins.

**Intro** – wood from trees?

A McDonald’s, a ready steady cook or a complete meal from first principles

**KV** His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His Kingdom is one that will never be destroyed

**MP** Earthly kingdoms rise and fall but God’s Kingdom will last forever

**The four beasts (1-8)**

- 1] Four great empires (cf 2:40) – Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome
  - a) 4 - number of the earth (represent all human kingdoms)
  - b) Empires from the sea – the mass of humanity from which evil arises (cf Rev 13:1)

*nb animals represent empires (Eagle USA, Bear Russia, Lion Britain*

*NOT of God (In God we trust?) – rise & fall (Egypt, Rome, Spain, GB, USA etc)*

- 2] Given authority. (nb all belongs to Jesus – Matt 28:18 ; Rev 9:1)

- 3] 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom 10 horns – complete power .

3 rooted out - - divine revelation

1 horn – boastful (8, 11, 20)

*(nb Jesus Luke 422!; Phil 2:5ff)*

*Cf our desire to be known / recognised*

**A vision of Heaven (9-14)**

- 1] God is in control (9,10)

a) on thrones (? Cf Gen1:26)

b) White – purity, Fire judgement. Number – majesty – he rules

*nb perspective - Person at work , unexpected bill, problem with child?*

c) seated for judgement – in complete control

- 2] The devil is condemned

a) ‘boastful’ one – destroyed (cf Rev 19:20)

b) All kingdoms of men – vacuous (12)

- 3] The Lord (Jesus) reigns

a) Son of man coming on clouds (Mt 24:30; 26:64)

b) Given all authority (Matt. 28:18ff)

c) His kingdom **never** ends

## **An interpretation of the dream (15-28)**

1] Daniel is troubled (15, 28)

Nb *It is dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb 10:31)*

2] He asked (16, 19, 20, 23)

*Nb blessed is he that hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt 5:6)*

3] The substance

a) The saints will reign over the kingdoms (17, 18; Rev 22:5)

b) God pronounced judgement in favour of the Saints (19 - 22)

c) 'the 'devil' (23-25)

1) will speak against the Most high (cf (Gen 3:1ff)

2) will oppress the saints (John15:8)

3) try to change the laws

4] The conclusion (26,27)

1) resolved by God's Word (cf Luke 4:1-12)

2) all power handed over (cf Matt 28:18)

3) Kingdom

a) everlasting

b) all rulers worship and obey

## **Conclusion**

1] Daniel sidelined, Jerusalem in ruins

Nb where is your experience of God

2] The end point – 'Jesus wins' – we are on His side!