

Revelation chapter 12 verse 3 explained

Revelation chapter 12 verse 3, ³*Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.*

In order to understand the meaning of the seven heads and ten horns we must go to the book of Daniel. In Daniel chapter 2, Daniel is in the early stages of Judah's 70 years of captivity. Daniel, along with others, has been taken captive to Babylon to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel is chosen by Nebuchadnezzar to be one of his advisors in the king's court, Daniel chapter 1 verse 19 .

King Nebuchadnezzar has had a dream about a huge statue. Daniel is called before Nebuchadnezzar to interpret the meaning of this statue. This statue represents 4 world empires who will rule the world from Daniel's time all the way to the end of the tribulation period.

In Daniel chapter 2 starting in verse 31 and finishing at verse 45 Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In Daniel's interpretation of the dream there is also the explanation of the seven heads referred to in Revelation chapter 12 verse 3.

Daniel 2:31-45, ³¹*"You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. ³²"The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴"You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the*

summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The Interpretation—Babylon the First Empire, Daniel 2:36-38.

³⁶“This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. ³⁷“You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; ³⁸and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.”

NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar conquered Assyria and Egypt, (two of the 7 heads noted in Revelation chapter 12 verse 3) during the military campaign when he took control of Judah and brought Daniel as captive back to Babylon.

How this military campaign unfolded is that Nebuchadnezzar attacked Assyria at Antioch in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) and the King of Egypt came to the aid of the Assyrians. Both Assyria and Egypt were beaten in this battle. Judah was a vassal state of Egypt and so when Egypt was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, Judah was included in the spoils of war and now belonged to Babylon. The Babylonian Empire controlled by Nebuchadnezzar was formed when he conquered nations of Assyria, Egypt and Judah.

Medo-Persia and Grecian Empire, Daniel 2:39.

³⁹“After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you (Medo-Persia Empire, then another third kingdom of bronze (the Grecian Empire), which will rule over all the earth.

The Roman Empire, Daniel 2:40-43.

⁴⁰“Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron (the Roman Empire); inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. ⁴¹“In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. ⁴²“As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. ⁴³“And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

NOTE: In verse 41 we see the words; it will be a divided kingdom. These words indicate that this Roman world empire will not rule continuously from the time of it coming to power in 63 AD to when this world power will finally be destroyed when Christ returns at the end of the tribulation period as we are told in Daniel 2:44-45.

The first phase of the Roman Empire’s rule will end in 476 BC. The second phase of the Roman Empire’s reign on earth (referred to as the revived Roman Empire) will begin when the Anti-Christ will form this 10 nation alliance noted in Revelation 12:4, as the ten horns. This 10 horned monster will be destroyed in the following verses 44 & 45 of Daniel chapter 2.

The Divine Kingdom of God, Daniel 2:44-45.

⁴⁴“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵“Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the

mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

The ten horns are also explained in chapter 7 of the book of Daniel. In verse 7 we are introduced to this 4th beast Daniel saw and its description is that of the Roman Empire. But also notice that the *little horn*, the Antichrist, rises up out of this 4th beast. This *little horn* appears from *among the 10 horns*.

Daniel 7:7-8 ⁷“After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸“While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

The 10 horns are further identified in Daniel chapter 7 as 10 kings who have power and are united with the Anti-Christ to form this revived Roman Empire.

Daniel 7:23-26, ²³“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

(This 4th kingdom, the revived Roman Empire controlled by the Anti-Christ, will dominate the world during the tribulation period).

Daniel 7:24, ²⁴*‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings, (the Anti-Christ).*

(Refer back to Daniel chapter 2 and the description of the 4th Beast.)
Daniel 2:41-43, ⁴¹*‘In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. ⁴²*‘As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. ⁴³*‘And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.***

NOTE: The feet and the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue (illustrated as the 10 nation alliance that will be the nucleus of the revived Roman Empire as it comes to power during the tribulation period) were *partly of iron and partly of pottery or clay*. This indicates that some of the 10 kings (also illustrated as the *10 horns*) were strong and some were weak and we see in verse 24 where the *little horn, the Anti-Christ will subdue three kings*, but he will not remove them from power.

Daniel 7:25-26, ²⁵*‘He (the Anti-Christ) will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. ²⁶*‘But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.**

These verses, Daniel chapter 7 verses 24-26, tell us that these 10 kings will already be in power when the Anti-Christ comes on the world scene at the beginning of the tribulation period. Once the Anti-Christ is in power he

will subdue three kings but will not remove them from power. Following the Anti-Christ's rise to power, in the final 3 ½ years of the tribulation (*time, times, and half a time*), he will persecute the Jewish Nation relentlessly until Christ returns.

Daniel explained the destruction of this 4th beast and the Anti-Christ in Daniel chapter 2.

Daniel 2:34-35, ³⁴*“You continued looking until a stone (Jesus Christ) was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵“Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*