

It is impossible to read the books of Daniel and Revelation without noticing parallels between the two. Here is a chart of similar figures from these books:

Vision	Daniel	Revelation
3 ½ time period	Chapter 12:7 (time, times, and half a time)	Chapter 11:9,11 (3 ½ days) Chapter 13:5 (42 months = 3 ½ years)
The 10 horns	Chapter 7:7-8	Chapter 12:3, 13:1, 17:3, 7
The leopard, bear, and lion	Chapter 7:4-6	Chapter 13:2
The beast boasting and blaspheming	Chapter 7:8, 11	Chapter 13:5
The war against the saints	Chapter 7:21	Chapter 13:7
Statue set up for worship	Chapter 3:5, 17 (actual statue, not visionary image)	Chapter 13:15
The Son of Man arriving on a cloud	Chapter 7:13	Chapter 1:7, 14:14

## Notes on Daniel 7

Chapter 7 begins the second half of the book of Daniel. It tells of visions and prophecies given directly to Daniel rather than histories and interpretations of other men's dreams. It does repeat the picture of the four empires from Chapter 2 but more from a Jewish rather than Gentile perspective.

Chapter 7 is the last written in Aramaic before switching back to Hebrew for the rest of the book.

**7:1** It is during the reign of Belshazzar that this vision appears to Daniel, when he is largely forgotten in court circles. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, likewise, is given to John in exile on the island of Patmos. Perhaps nearness to God and communion with Him increase with distance from the centers of political power.

**7:2** The great sea is the Mediterranean Sea. Turbulent seas in Scripture stand for the unorganized mass of humanity, in this case the world of the Gentiles out of which the empires will arise.

**7:3** Chapter 2 portrayed the empires as seen by the Gentile kings, powerful and splendid. Here the perspective shifts to that of their unwilling subjects, where the empires assume the character of fierce and hungry animals.

**7:4** The lion with eagle's wings represents the Babylonian empire of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. Most commentators say the walking on legs implies the kingdom's weakness just before its fall, as a lion walking erect would be very ungainly. But the picture may be of Nebuchadnezzar's restoration of human reason after his inhuman humiliation.

**7:5** The lopsided bear is the vast Medo-Persian empire (tilted in favor of the Persians) which conquered and followed the Babylonian empire. The reference to its appetite is not surprising: This empire counted as its subject the highest *percentage* of the world population of any empire in history.

**7:6** The leopard is known for agility; wings would give it speed. These speak of the swift and thorough victories of the Greek/Macedonian general Alexander the Great. The territory he ruled separated after his death into kingdoms

ruled by four of his generals. Thus the four heads look forward to a future condition of the empire.

**7:7** The fourth beast, noted for power and terror, pictures the mighty Roman empire (which did not actually arise until 300 years after Daniel's time, and was not yet an empire even by 100-200 BC when the skeptics say Daniel was written).

**7:8** Like the four heads of the leopard, the ten horns of this beast are a glimpse of the future, in this case all the way to end times. The ten horns correspond to the ten kings allied with the beast in Revelation 17:12. The little horn is the antichrist who rises to power within the revived Roman empire.

**7:9** The description of the Ancient of days resembles the picture of the Savior in Revelation 1, but verse 13 implies that we are seeing God the Father to whom the "son of man" is presented.

**7:10** The order of events here is reversed. The judgment takes place before the destruction of the beast, whereas in Revelation the beast and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (19:20) before the white throne judgment of 20:11-15. There we learn that one of the books that is opened is the Book of Life; the others are records of men's deeds for which they stand condemned

**7:12** The empires of Babylon, Persia, and Greece no longer exist but they continue as a people.

**7:13-14** The kingdom of Christ in verse 14 endures forever; that of the antichrist in verse 26 is destroyed.

**7:16** The interpretation of the vision introduces the fact that the saints (both Old and New Testament) shall govern the everlasting kingdom along with their Savior. 1 Cor. 6:3 tells Christians they are to judge angels. What a thought that we are to be entrusted with such authority!

**7:17** In the original vision the beasts arose from the sea; in the interpretation they emerge from the earth. The earth here represents the Gentile

nations that are to dominate the world until the end.

**7:20** The little horn speaks "great things." Boastfulness to the point of blasphemy appears to be a leading characteristic of the antichrist (also see 2 Thess. 2, Rev 13:5).

It appears that the beast overthrows three of the ten kingdoms. The identity of these three kingdoms is unknown.

**7:25** Changing the times and law probably refers to interference with the Jewish holidays and Mosaic law. Time, times, and half a time is three and a half years. This is the time of the great tribulation inflicted upon Israel.