

# ***Contemporary Mystic Christianity*** **Bible Self-Study Supplement**

## **Daniel**

### **The Initiate Visions of Daniel**

#### **First Vision: The Four Beasts**

After an Initiate has successfully passed the Dweller on the Threshold and, purity having been found in him, has gained control of that phantom, he is conducted by his spiritual Teacher to the Hall of Initiation. The various Schools or Temples of Initiation are not spatial in any sense. It may be said of them, as of the Castle of the Grail, that they are in no particular place but can be discovered and reached in all places. There are certain areas upon the earth's surface which correspond to great magnetic vortices that penetrate to earth's very core, and in these districts are usually located the Mystery Schools. Jerusalem is such an area, so the Chaldean-Persian Mysteries were destined to be transplanted westward into that new land. Second Ezra took the Persian Initiations. On the outer plane and with the help of various prophets of the Restoration, he established the visible Temple of Zion. Daniel, an illumined Initiate of both Chaldea and Persia, accompanied this activity on inner planes and helped to establish the invisible Temple there.

*Daniel 7:2*

*Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

Always in the primal recapitulatory processes of Initiation the power of God moves upon the face of the waters producing the birth of Light. This divine creative power is dual in manifestation. It is upon the Waters (Feminine) that God (Masculine) moves in order to create. Again, in the four winds we have the four elemental essences — symbolized as Fire, Air, Water and Earth — channels for the working of the Lords of Destiny — astrologically, Leo, Aquarius, Scorpio and Taurus.

*Daniel 7:3*

*And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.*

The four beasts were: first, a lion with wings of an angel: "I beheld until the wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet of a man, and a man's heart was given to it;" the second beast was like a bear: "and they said thus to it, Arise, devour much flesh;" the third beast was a leopard which had four wings and four heads: "and dominion was given to it." (Daniel 7:3-6)

The ideal man was made in the image and likeness of God. This ideal, or Adam, was the man of the Polarian and Hyperborean races which existed in etheric bodies on this globe when it was still a part of the Sun. The pattern-picture of a child is visible to clairvoyant vision in the body of its mother-to-be, although an X-ray would reveal only an animal-like embryonic form. So, in the midst of the embryonic forms of these first races, forms which bore no resemblance to any human being, the First Adam, the Man ' of Paradise, was visible to the Creative Hierarchies. That ideal is even now visible to the extended sight of an Initiate as he directs his gaze upon humanity. Traditions about the glorious beings belonging to those ancient races — traditions based upon the insight of Initiates and Seers who saw them shining in the embryonic forms of that long-ago time — were incorporated into the religions of early humanity. The new Aquarian-Leo race type man will approximate this original pattern. Daniel describes him as like a lion with eagle's wings, a winged king.

The vision of Daniel continues with a description of the fall of man into coats of skin, his gradual loss of spiritual sight, and the growth of materialism. Again, the physical expression of the four elemental energies operative in Nature are represented in the four wings and the four heads.

## *Daniel 7:7*

*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 brake 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.*

Following the first three great races of man, the fourth was the iron man as described in Nebuchadnezzar's vision. He came into existence on earth the most terrible of all. Horns symbolize certain powers. The archetype of man possesses a tenfold aspect embracing a threefold spirit which works upon and through a threefold body by means of the link of mind, to evolve thereby a threefold soul. The word soul is used in a special technical sense in Western Wisdom Teachings. It does not indicate the spirit of man, the ego, as it does in ordinary orthodox usage. Rather, it denotes spiritual power achieved by the spirit as a result of work done in the physical world. Both Rudolf Steiner and Max Heindel define the soul in this manner, and describe its functions in a similar way. In *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, by Max Heindel, the threefold Soul is said to consist of the Conscious Soul, fruit of work done within dense vehicles; the Intellectual Soul, fruit of work in the etheric body; the Emotional Soul, fruit of work done within

the desire body. Dr. Steiner's terms are Consciousness Soul, Rational Soul and Sentient Soul respectively.

*Daniel 7:8*

*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.*

Bible scholars say that this "little horn" is a reference to Antiochus IV who, as previously stated, attempted to Hellenize Palestine by force of arms in order to further his political ambitions. His failure, and the reaction among Jews previously friendly to Greek culture, is known to history. Henceforward the Jews developed an increasing suspicion of Hellenism.

— **Corinne Heline**