

Daniel 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Analysis

Daniel continues observing "because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake"—the little horn's blasphemies command his attention, emphasizing the offense these words represent to God and heaven. The dramatic conclusion: "I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame" describes sudden, complete judgment. Unlike previous beasts that merely lost dominion (v. 12), this fourth beast faces utter destruction, indicating the severity of its opposition to God.

The phrase "given to the burning flame" employs imagery of final judgment, echoed in Revelation's lake of fire (Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 14-15). This beast doesn't simply pass away like earthly kingdoms transitioning power—it faces divine wrath and eternal condemnation. The little horn's blasphemies, representing ultimate rebellion against God, provoke ultimate judgment. This demonstrates that while God patiently endures human pride, there comes an appointed moment of decisive judgment.

This judgment scene anticipates Christ's second coming when He will destroy antichrist "with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8) and cast the beast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20). The destruction's finality provides comfort to persecuted saints: their oppressors face certain, complete judgment. No power, however seemingly invincible, can withstand God's wrath when judgment

day arrives. Christ's return will vindicate suffering believers and punish blasphemous opposition definitively.

Historical Context

The fourth beast (Rome) persecuted early Christians severely, yet the empire eventually collapsed (Western Rome fell AD 476, Eastern Rome continued until 1453). However, the complete destruction "given to the burning flame" suggests eschatological fulfillment beyond historical Rome's decline—final judgment when Christ returns. The pattern shows immediate historical fulfillment foreshadowing ultimate eschatological completion.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the beast's sudden destruction after prolonged blasphemy demonstrate both God's patience and the certainty of eventual judgment?
2. What comfort does the promise of complete destruction provide to believers suffering under blasphemous opposition?
3. How does this judgment scene point to Christ's second coming and final victory over all God-opposing powers?

Interlinear Text

ה	יְהוָה	יָבֵא	מִן	קוֹל	מִלִּי	רַבְרָבָה	דָּ
H2370	I beheld	then	because	of the voice	words	of the great	H1768
	H1934	H116	H4481	H7032	H4406	H7260	
קָרַב	הַ	מִמֶּלֶךְ	הַ	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	עַד	קָטִיל
which the horn	spake			I beheld	even till		was slain
H7162	H4449			H1934	H5705		H6992
הַ	וְהוּבַד	וְהָשַׁח	וְהָיָה	לִיקָדַח	אֶשָׁא:		
the beast	destroyed	and his body	and given	to the burning	flame		
H2423	H7	H1655	H3052	H3346	H785		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:20 (Parallel theme): And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10 (Parallel theme): And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Daniel 7:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (Parallel theme): And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Revelation 18:8 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Daniel 8:25 (Parallel theme): And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

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