

Daniel 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Daniel's vision begins dramatically: "Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." The "four winds" represent divine judgment and providence from all directions (cf. Jeremiah 49:36; Zechariah 2:6). The "great sea" symbolizes nations in chaos and rebellion (Psalm 65:7; Isaiah 17:12; Revelation 17:15). The violent striving produces the coming beasts—human kingdoms emerge from chaotic nations through divine providence. God sovereignly orchestrates even tumultuous political developments.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmology understood the sea as primordial chaos requiring divine control. The imagery drew from creation accounts where God orders chaos. Jewish apocalyptic literature used sea symbolism for Gentile nations opposed to God (cf. Daniel 7:3; Revelation 13:1). The four winds from heaven's four directions indicate universal scope—no corner of earth escapes God's providential governance. This vision came during Babylonian dominance but prophesied successive empires emerging from international conflict.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of winds and sea teach that God sovereignly directs even chaotic international conflicts toward His purposes?
2. What comfort comes from knowing that political turmoil doesn't represent randomness but divine orchestration of history?

Interlinear Text

לֹא־אָמַרְתִּי בְּבֹקֶשׁ וְעַתָּה
spake Daniel and said I saw in my vision by night
H6032 H1841 H560 H2370 H1934 H2376 H5974 H3916

רָאָה: לִפְנֵי מִגְּדָל אֶרְכָּבָע
and behold the four winds of the heaven strove sea upon the great
H718 H703 H7308 H8065 H1519 H3221 H7229

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 7:1 (Parallel theme): And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.