

# Daniel 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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The vision's beasts emerge: "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." These beasts represent four successive world empires (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome). The phrase "diverse one from another" emphasizes distinctive characteristics. Unlike Daniel 2's statue (human form, noble metals), chapter 7 depicts empires as beasts—from God's perspective, human kingdoms are predatory, brutal, and inhuman. This dual perspective (2's statue, 7's beasts) reveals truth: empires appear glorious to humans but beastly to God.

## Historical Context

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The four beasts parallel Daniel 2's four-part statue: lion (Babylon/gold), bear (Medo-Persia/silver), leopard (Greece/bronze), terrifying beast (Rome/iron). Historical fulfillment vindicated the prophecy—each empire succeeded its predecessor exactly as predicted. The bestial imagery influenced later apocalyptic literature, especially Revelation 13. Ancient Near Eastern art depicted empires as composite creatures combining fearsome animal features, so this imagery would resonate with Daniel's audience.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the shift from statue (human glory) to beasts (divine perspective) reveal the difference between worldly and godly assessment of power?
2. What does the bestial nature teach about human government apart from God —predatory, violent, inhuman rather than noble?

## Interlinear Text

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|                 |               |              |                |             |                |                |                |             |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| וְאַרְבַּע      | חַיּוֹת       | וְגָדוֹל     | עָלָה          | מִן         | יָם            | שָׁרֵף         | אֲחֵר          | מִן         |
| <b>And four</b> | <b>beasts</b> | <b>great</b> | <b>came up</b> | <b>from</b> | <b>the sea</b> | <b>diverse</b> | <b>another</b> | <b>from</b> |
| H703            | H2423         | H7260        | H5559          | H4481       | H3221          | H8133          | H1668          | H4481       |

אֲחֵר  
**another**  
H1668

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 13:1** (Parallel theme): And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

**Daniel 7:17** (Parallel theme): These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.