**Counter Cultural: Book of Daniel for Today**

**Today: Beast Mode**

**Speaker; Ronnie Norman**

**Book of Daniel Flow**

**Chaps 1-6: Life in Exile Stories**

**Chaps 7-12: Life after Exile Prophecies**

Exile Map: <https://www.lds.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/gospel-library/magazine/fr10sep14_map.jpg>

***Daniel 7***

*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.*

*2Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.*

**Images of Beasts**: <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/--ClcDX39fPU/Vg-E7bLEdqI/AAAAAAAAJoc/dOvaRs-55ZA/s1600/beasts-daniel.jpg>

*4“The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.*

*5“And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and eat your fill of flesh!’*

*6“After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.*

*7“After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.*

*8“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.*

*9“As I looked, “thrones were set in place,  
    and the Ancient of Days took his seat.  
His clothing was as white as snow;  
    the hair of his head was white like wool.  
His throne was flaming with fire,  
    and its wheels were all ablaze.  
10A river of fire was flowing,  
    coming out from before him.  
Thousands upon thousands attended him;  
    ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.  
The court was seated,  
    and the books were opened.*

*11“Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12(The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)*

*13“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.*

***Matthew 26:63-65***

*The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”*

*64“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”[*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+26&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24119e)*]*

*65Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.*

*14He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

*15“I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.*

*“So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: 17‘The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. 18But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.’*

*19“Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast…*

*21As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, 22until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.*

*23“He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. 24The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. 25He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.*

*26“‘But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. 27Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’*

*28“This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”*

1. The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man sovereignly reign over all empires.
2. Expect temporary trouble before eternal deliverance.
3. God invites all nations into His eternal kingdom.
4. You have a dual citizenship.

***Philippians 3:20-21***

*20But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

***Jeremiah 29:5-7***

*5“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”*

**Key Truth: Though the nations rage against God, blessed are all who take refuge in Jesus, the Son of Man, sent by God, the Ancient of Days, who sovereignly reigns.**