



The Four Beasts

(Daniel 7: 1-28)

The Grotesque

- “a style of decorative art characterized by ***fanciful or fantastic human and animal forms*** often interwoven with foliage or similar figures that may distort the natural into absurdity, ugliness, or caricature”

[It has some familiar features, but others are just “off”]

- “The Grotesque may apply to what is conventionally ugly but ***artistically effective*** or it may connote ludicrous awkwardness or ***incongruity often with sinister or tragic overtones***.

[It grabs your attention! Often associated with evil.]

- *Example: “grotesque statues on the cathedral” (gargoyles)*
- ***Biblical application: The physical representation of the effect of sin and vice on an individual being or culture***

A Gargoyle on a Church



Depictions of Lucifer (Satan)



Eschatology

- “Derived from the Greek term meaning ‘Last,’ *eschaton* refers to the ultimate climax or end of history wherein Christ returns to earth to establish his eternal kingdom of righteousness and justice among all nations. Eschatology, then, is the theological study that seeks to understand the ultimate direction or purpose of history as it moves toward the future, both from an individual perspective (What happens when a person dies?) and from a corporate perspective (Where is history going, and how will it end?)”

--*The Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*

Apocalyptic literature

- “Apocalyptic eschatology sees a contrast between the character of the present time of suffering and the future time of salvation that is so radical that it is finally described in terms of two ages: this age and the age to come. This age is characterized by evil; the age to come will see the kingdom of God. The transition from this age to the coming age can be accomplished only by a supernatural inbreaking of God.”

--Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

Apocalyptic literature

- “a genre or type of Jewish literature that became popular during the intertestamental period and extended into the New Testament era (c. 400 B.C. to A.D. 100). The writers of apocalyptic literature sought to disclose ‘heavenly secrets’ concerning how the world would end and how the kingdom of God would suddenly appear to destroy the kingdom of evil. Apocalyptic writers made extensive use of visions, dreams and symbols as instruments of revealing what was hidden”

--The Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms

Apocalypticism

- “*Apocalypticism* has been variously defined as a social movement or ideology arising out of an oppressed subgroup in a society, whether ancient or modern, which in defining its identity seeks release from oppression by seeing a future reality as more important than the present state of affairs.”

--The Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms

- Example: The Jews in Babylon/Persia during the sixth century B.C., i.e. during Daniel's life in captivity (c. 605-535 B.C.)

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



The First Beast



The First Beast



The Second Beast



The Second Beast



The Third Beast



The Third Beast



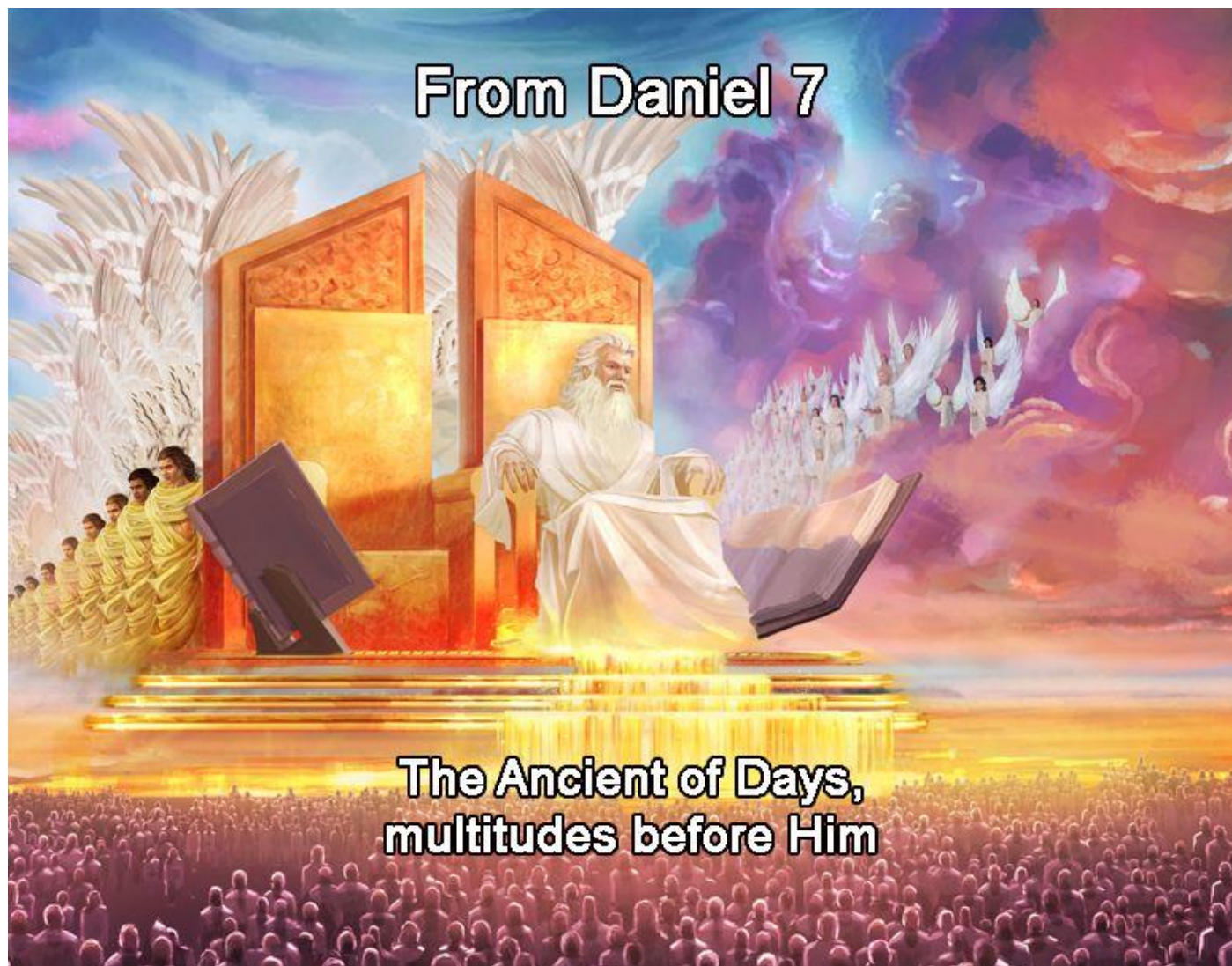
The Fourth Beast



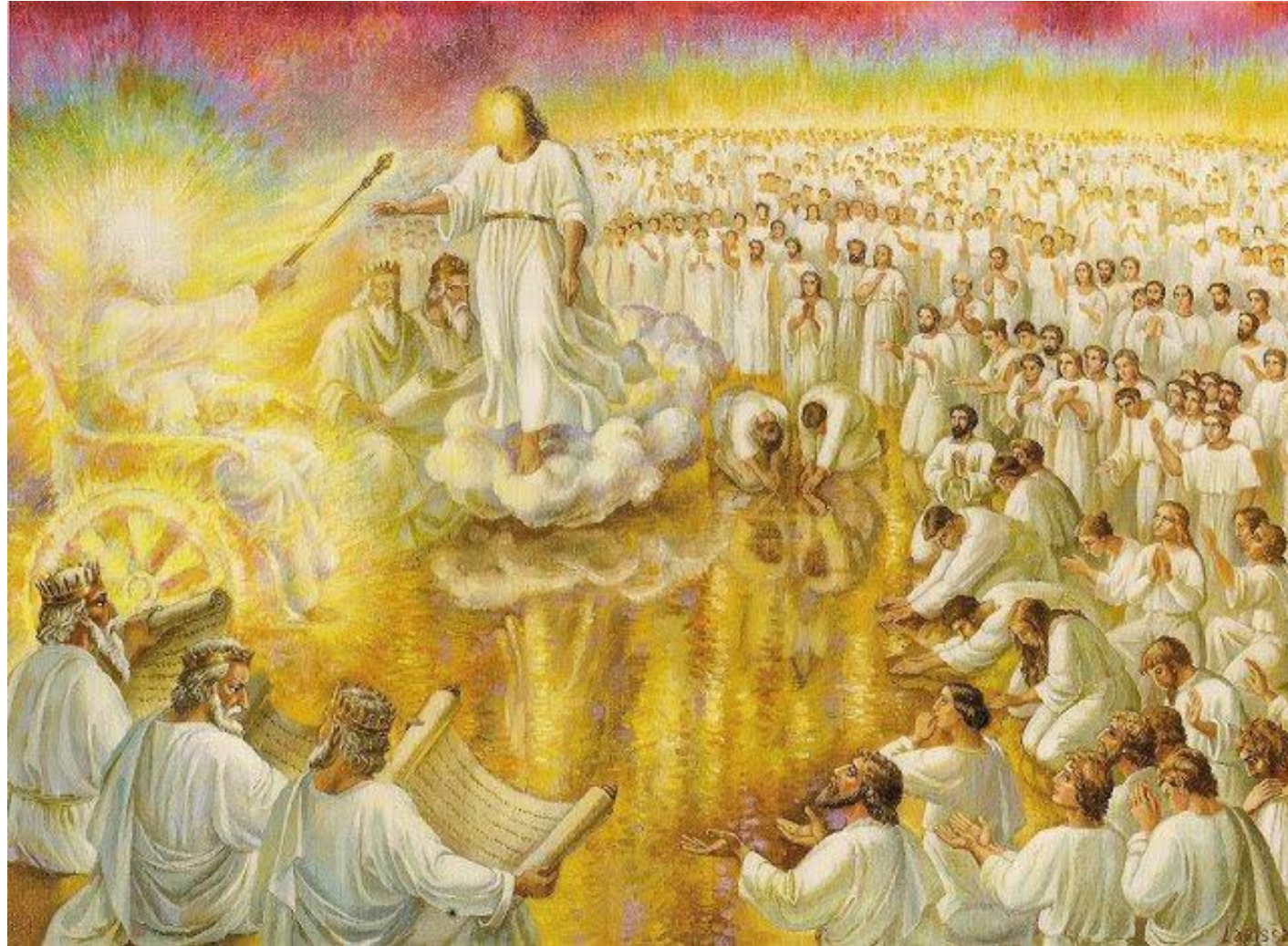
The Fourth Beast



The Ancient of Days



The Son of Man



Let Us Pray

