

making this request he recapitulated its content, adding some details not previously mentioned (vv. 19-22). In answer the bystander gave a somewhat more detailed interpretation of the latter part of the vision (vv. 23-27).

### **The First Part of the Vision**

(1) In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream. (2) Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. (3) Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. (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 man, and the heart of a man 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."

The interpretation of this part of the vision is summarized in verse 17: "The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth."