

## **26. What do the four beasts in Daniel 7 represent?**

Many scholars think that the vision of Daniel 7 predicts four successive ancient empires in the region that follow Babylon. They emerge throughout many years into Daniel's future. The four empires would be Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the kingdom of Islam.

A more accurate interpretation views the last beast as a government in the future, at the end of the age, that is associated with Islam, because the Eastern Roman empire (in the Holy Land) fell to Islam in 630 AD. (Some believe that during this extended time, the government of the pagan Roman Empire gave way to the Holy Roman Empire in the region, meaning the Catholic Church, but there is no Scriptural or historical basis for this).

These empires have played a key role in Israel's history ever since Israel came under the rule of the kingdom of Babylon. (See illustration #21a-c: The Beasts of Daniel)