







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. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18 (NIV)

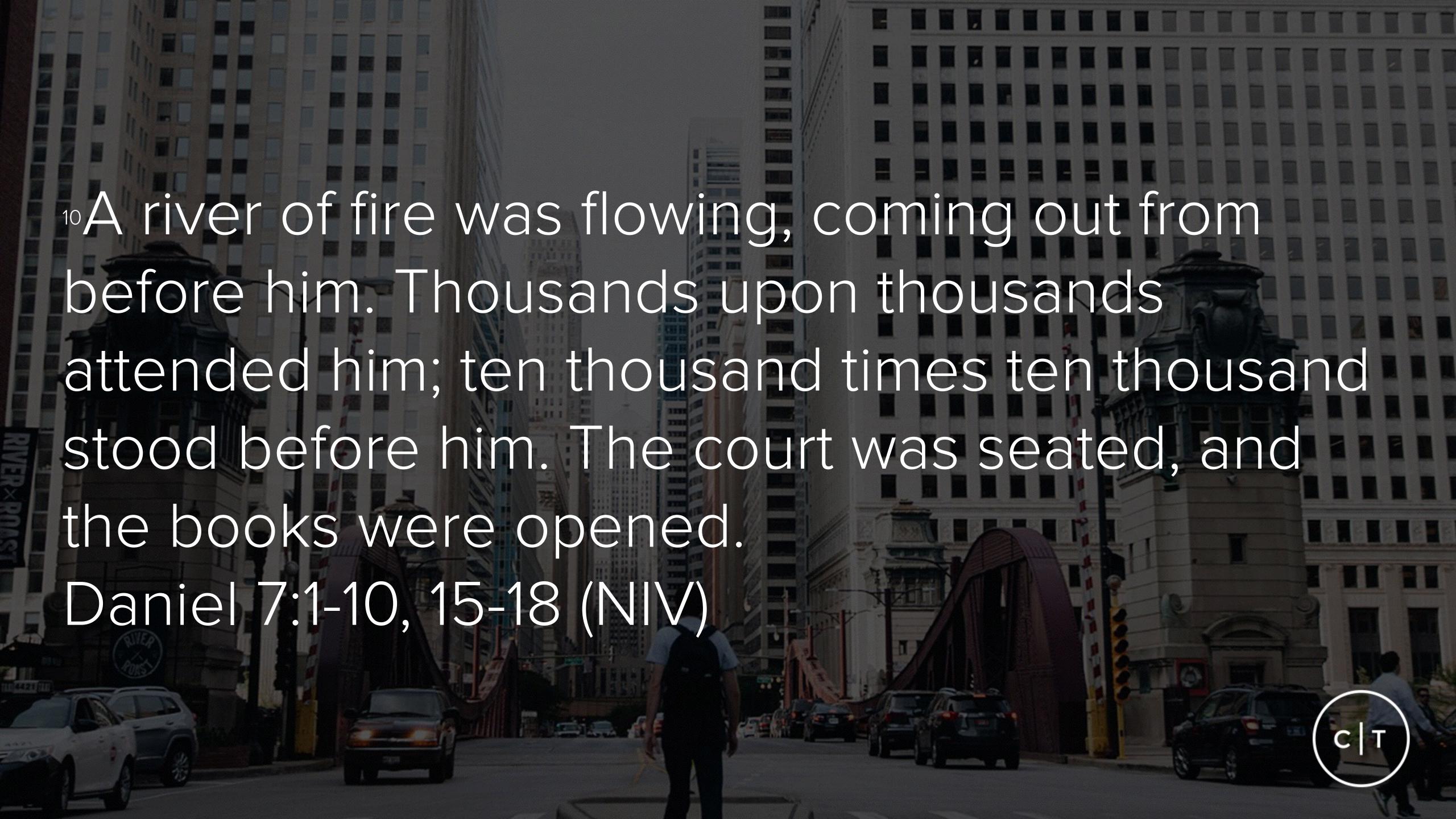
4"The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it. 5"And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18 (NIV)

It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' "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. "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powertul.

Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18 (NIV)

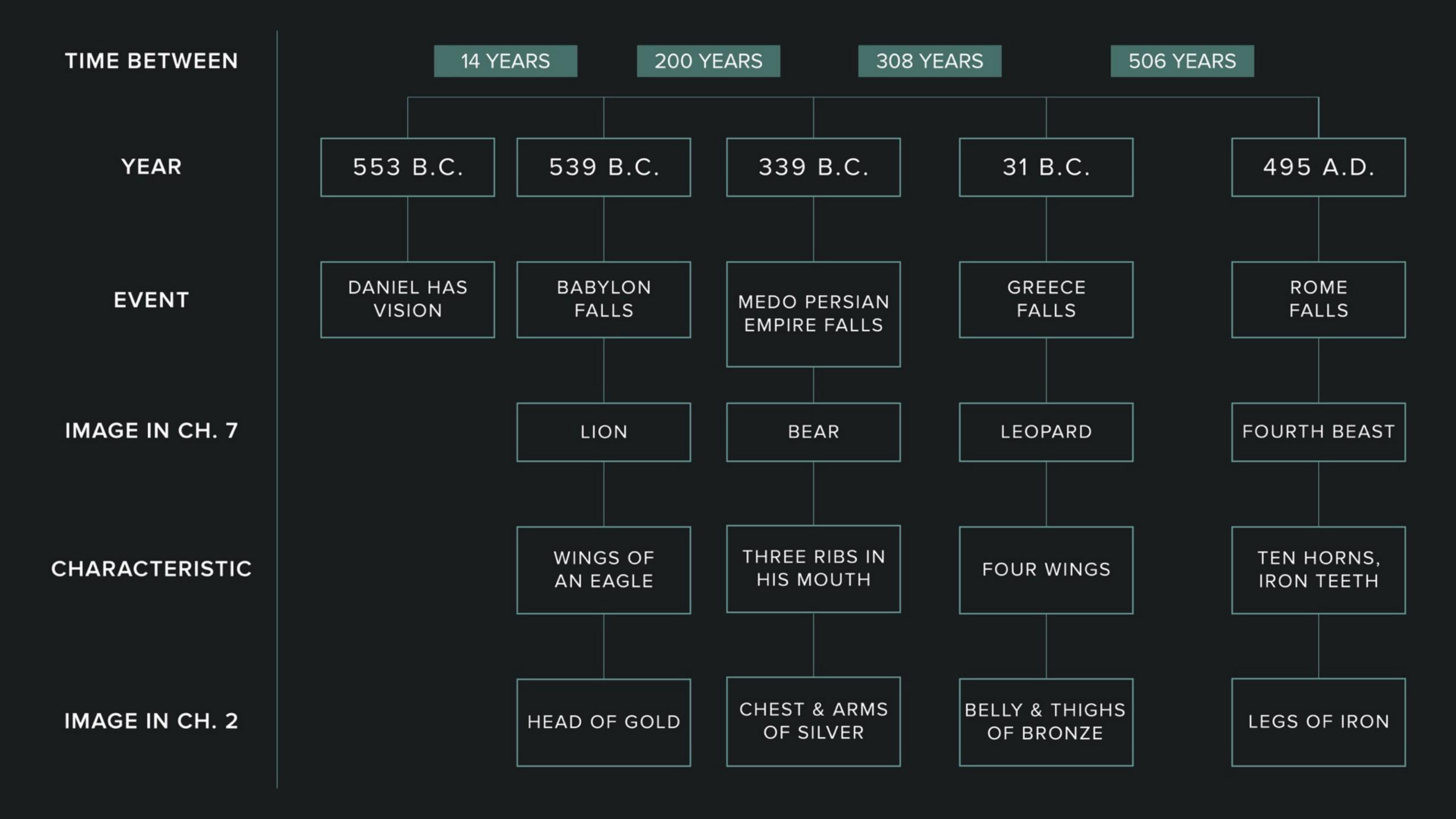
It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. «"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18 (NIV)

This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 9"As 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. Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18 (NIV)



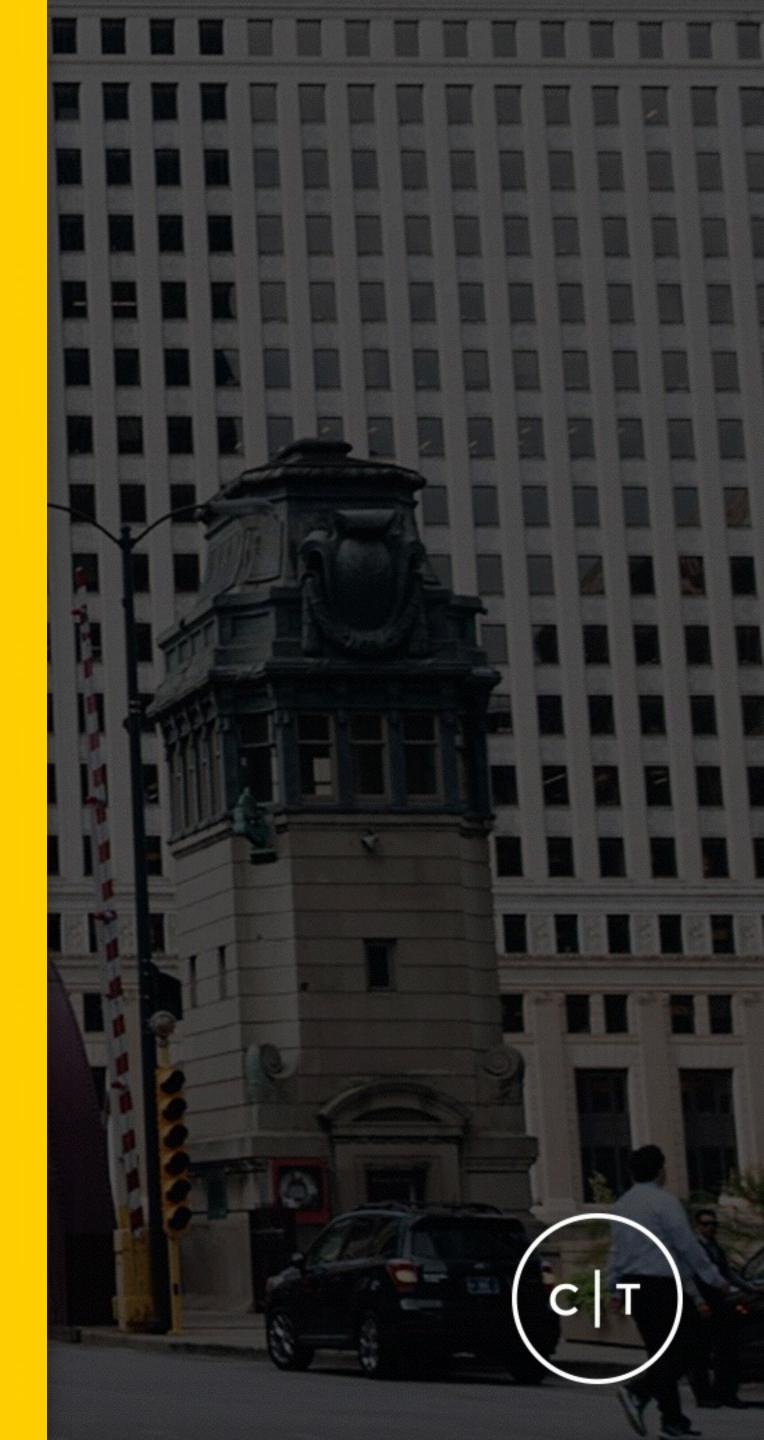
"I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16 approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this. "So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: <sup>17</sup>The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18 (NIV)











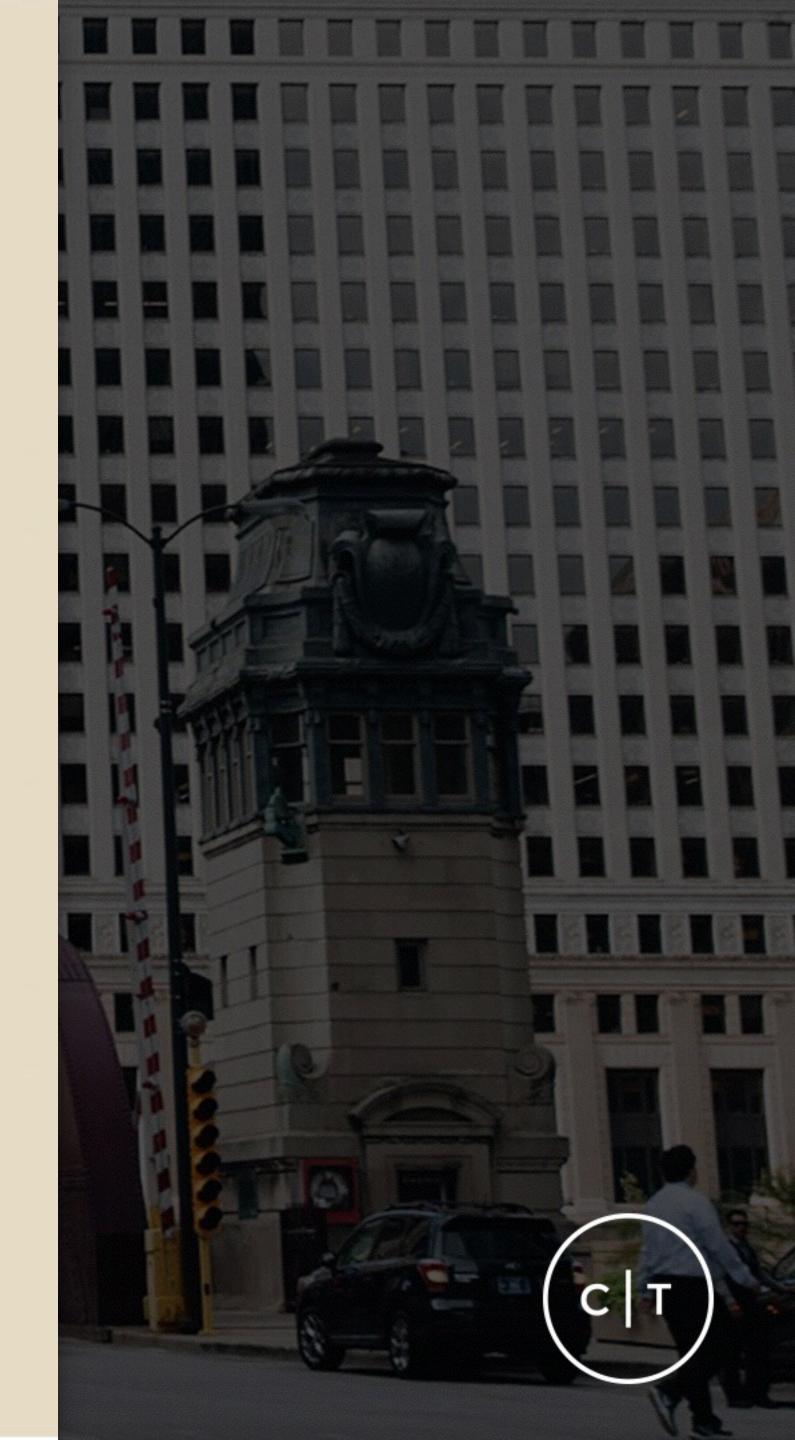


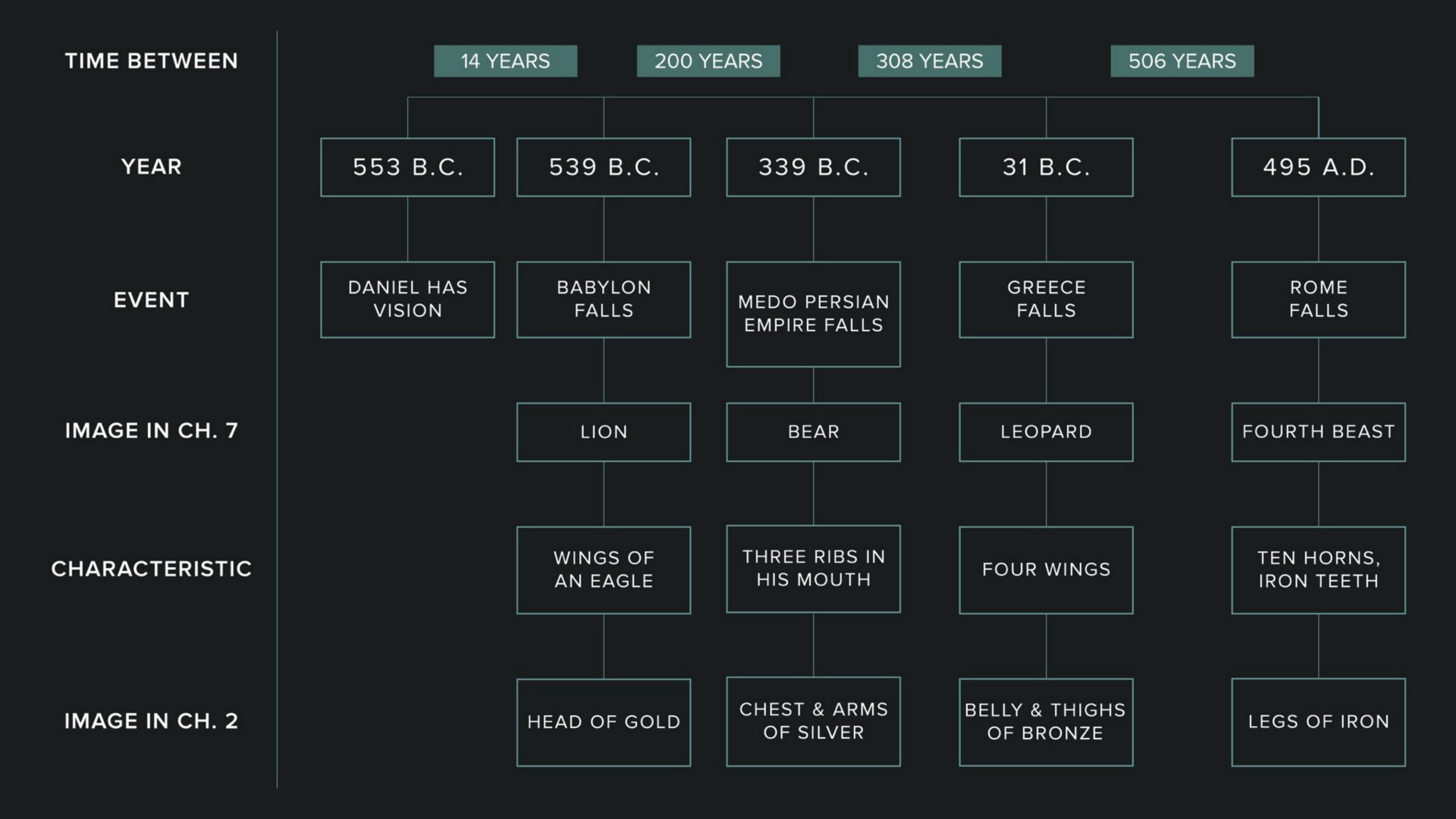
## A TOLERANT KING

yrus's spectacular conquests forced him to create an administration fit for an empire. Inspired by the sophisticated model of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, Cyrus created a network of public administration and tax collection while recruiting the best military generals from among the Medes. Following the conquest of Lydia and the Greek cities of Ionia in the west of modern-day Turkey, the

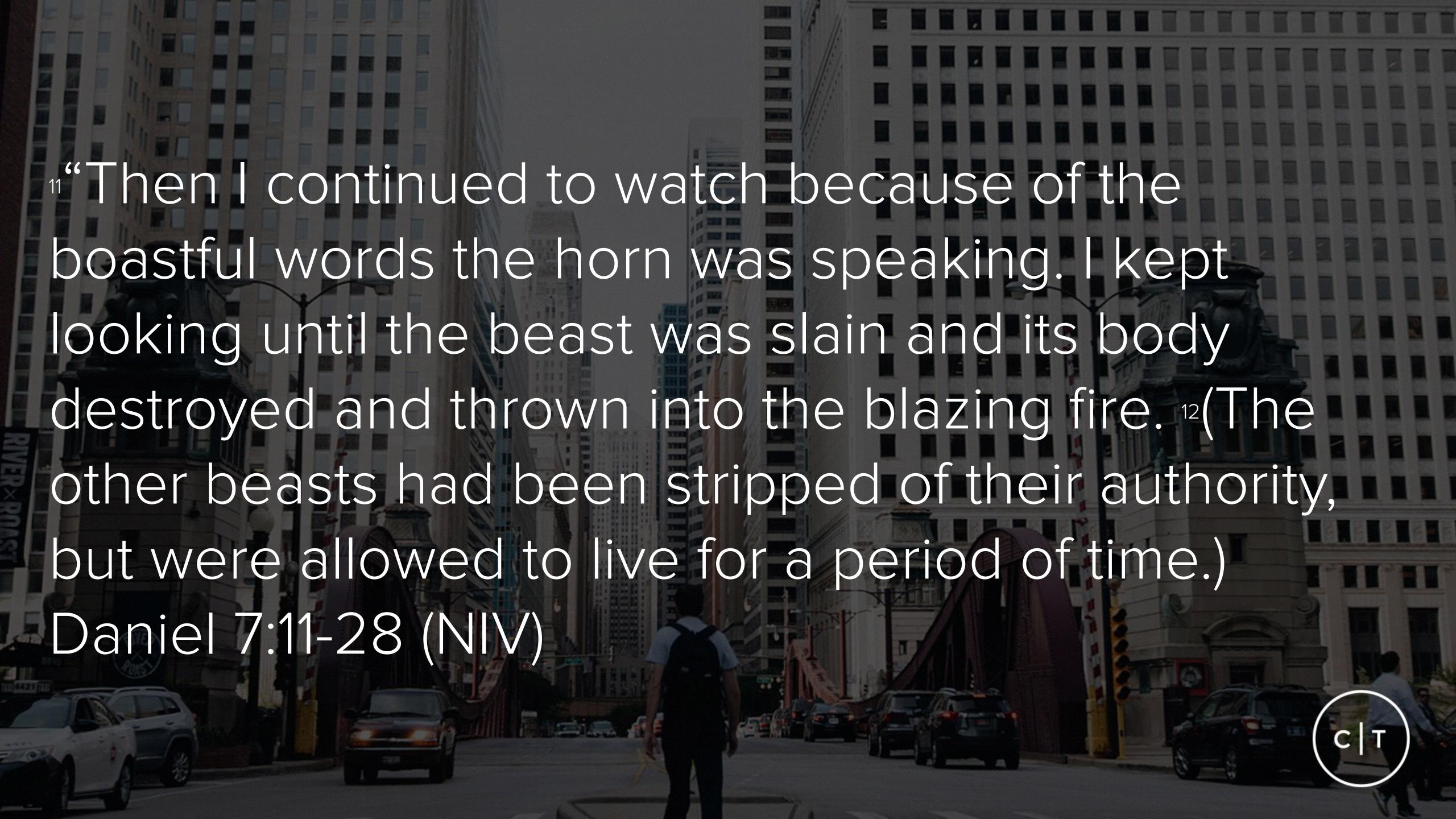
Persian administration was reigned, and tolerance toward split up into provinces. Later, their customs and religions, Babylonia and the other conquered areas were also converted into provinces, ruled by satraps, or governors, a system later completed under Darius I. Remarkably, Cyrus had no intention of imposing whom Cyrus gave his bless-Persian religion, language, or ing to return to Jerusalem. Loculture on his new conquests. cal governors could conserve His style of government was their autonomy, provided that based on respect for the they paid respect, and tribute, many peoples over whom he to the great king.

setting him apart from earlier empire builders. Displaced peoples were allowed to return to their homes—most famously in the case of the Jews exiled in Babylon, to

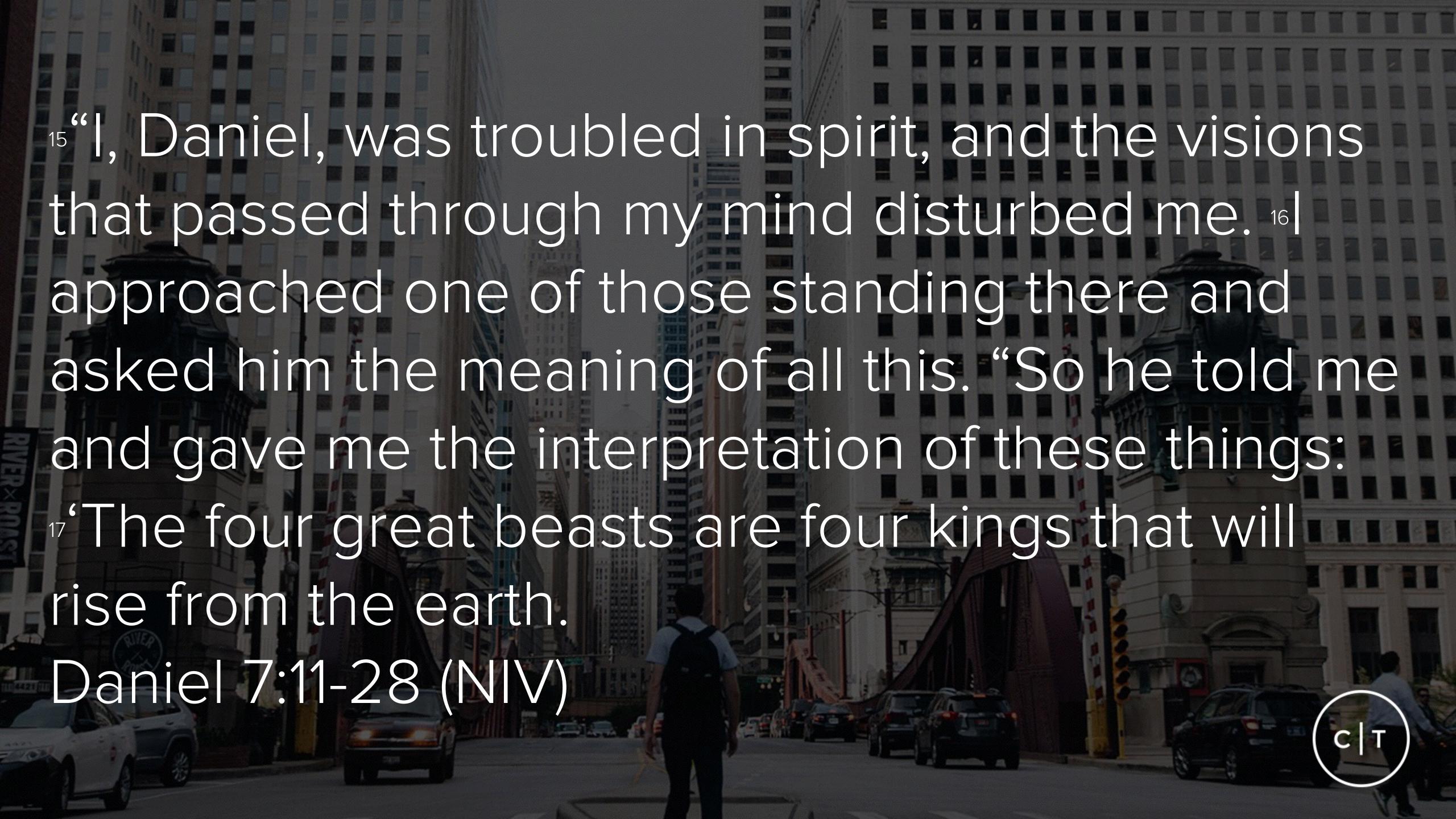








13"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 4He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:11-28 (NIV)



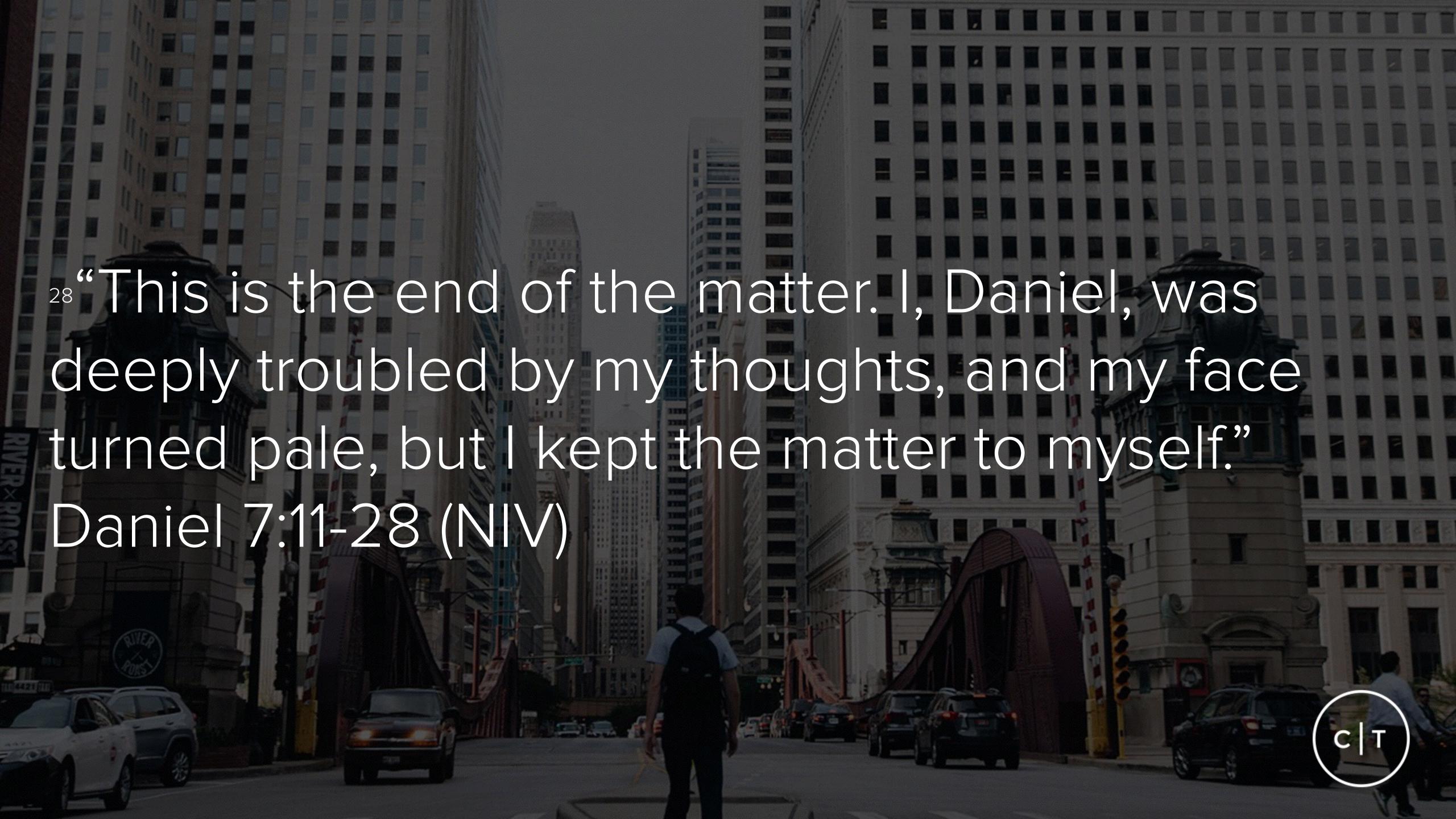
<sup>18</sup>But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever —yes, for ever and ever. of Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. Daniel 7:11-28 (NIV)

20 also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 21As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, Daniel 7:11-28 (NIV)

22 until 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. Daniel 7:11-28 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup>The 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. Daniel 7:11-28 (NIV)

26"But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. <sup>27</sup>Then 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.' Daniel 7:11-28 (NIV)





## TRAITS OF THE ANTICHRIST

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	SIGNS OF THE END TIMES
INTELLECTUAL GENIUS	"A horn that had eyes." <i>Daniel 7:20</i> "A master of intrigue." <i>Daniel 8:23</i>	The antichrist will captivate the educated world; he will be a master of all secrets of the occult.
ORATORICAL GENIUS	"A mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions." <i>Daniel 7:20</i>	The antichrist will have a perfect command and flow of language, gaining attention and commanding respect.
POLITICAL GENIUS	"He shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries." Daniel 11:21	He will emerge from a ten-nation confederacy that will rule the earth.
COMMERCIAL GENIUS	"But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things."  Daniel 11:43	There will be a universal currency.

## TRAITS OF THE ANTICHRIST

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	SIGNS OF THE END TIMES
MILITARY GENIUS	"He will cause astounding devastation He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people." Daniel 8:24	The antichrist will subdue three kings.
GOVERNMENTAL GENIUS	"He will not answer to a higher earthly authority; he will do as pleases." <i>Daniel 11:36</i>	World leaders will cede their kingdoms to the antichrist.
RELIGIOUS GENIUS	"He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestorsnor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all." <i>Daniel 11:37</i>	The antichrist will claim to be Christ and demand Divine honors.



## The Big Ending

<sup>26</sup>"But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.

<sup>27</sup>Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High.

Daniel 7:26-28 (NIV)





His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

<sup>28</sup>"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." Daniel 7:26-28 (NIV)

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