

Prophetic beasts are not ancient kingdoms! Here are some examples:

1) The sanctuary service of the Israelites had many animals or 'beasts' that were symbolic of something bigger. The most common were the ox, ram, goat, and lamb. The lamb in particular was especially associated with Christ who is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world John 1:29. On the day of atonement there were two goats that were used with one for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat. All the sins of the children of Israel were placed on the head of the scapegoat and he was sent into the wilderness most likely representing Satan who will bear the sins of the saved during the millennium when he is placed back into the bottomless pit. So we see here that all the animals typified Christ and one who typified Satan neither of which are nations.

2) In Daniel chap. 10 the angel Gabriel is in a battle with someone called the prince of Persia for 21 days. This prince who is also symbolized by a ram with two horns actually prevents Gabriel from coming to Daniel in answer to his prayer. So this was no ordinary prince and he was actually doing pretty well against Gabriel until Michael came to help him out. There is no possible way that this prince was Cyrus the Great because how could he fight and prevail against the highest angel of heaven? This prince of Persia was a fallen angel who did what all fallen angels do which is fight against the good or loyal angels. Another example of a beast in the bible that is identified as an angel. Also Michael is said to be a prince as well and we know for certain that he is not a nation.

3) Revelation chap. 5 gives us a picture of a Lamb what had been slain with seven eyes and seven horns. This Lamb is Christ and the seven eyes and horns are identified as the seven spirits of God that are sent into all the earth. The seven spirits are also identified as seven stars or angels of the seven churches in Rev. 1:20. This is an important principle in identifying beasts and horns in Daniel and Revelation. The head is in charge of the horns and they are not the same entity. If a beast is other than Christ say a fallen angel then the head would represent the angel and the horn would represent the earthly or human kings that he controls. There are no nations represented here at all.

4) In Revelation chap. 9 there is a king who is released from the bottomless pit who is called Abaddon or Apollyon the destroyer. He is said to be the angel of the bottomless pit or Satan with many commentators identifying him as the beast who ascends out of the earth and speaks as a dragon in chap. 13. This beast has two horns like a lamb but speaks as a dragon implying that Satan will use deceit when he comes and impersonates Christ. This beast calls fire down out of heaven and performs miracles, signs and lying wonders which are things that only an individual could perform not a nation.

5) The four living creatures around the throne are a different order of angels known as Seraphim. These angels are actually called beasts or living creatures with each having the face of a lion, ox, man and an eagle. This is probably the best association of angels with beasts. In the book of Daniel we have one beast after another appearing on the world's stage indicating that Satan and his angel's will appear one after another to deceive the world. They will most likely appear as ancient aliens or visitors from other worlds with the lion representing Satan himself as the false Christ and the 4th beast as the worst demon in his army who will devour the whole earth and tread it down.

6) Lastly the great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns is identified as Satan or the devil in Revelation chap. 12. This beast is once again not a nation but a combination of all the beasts from Daniel chap. 7 i.e. the lion, bear, leopard and 4th beast. The heads are said to be kings or mountains which are religious in nature and the horns are identified as kings which have received no kingdom as yet. It is very possible that horns do represent the leaders of nations and I have no problem with that but to say that all beasts in Daniel and Revelation are nations is a fallacy. Evil men are controlled by evil angels and this is the best way to view the heads/horns relationship of prophetic beasts.