

DANIEL

Chapter SEVEN

Lesson Number Thirteen

One of the grandest of prophetic panoramas is found in the seventh chapter of Daniel, and it was written in the sixth century B.C. Over twenty-five centuries are compressed into less than thirty verses! Ford, Desmond, Daniel and the Coming King

REVIEW:

1) The lion with eagle's wings =
Babylonian Empire

2) The bear with ribs in its mouth =
Medo Persia Empire

3) The winged, multi-headed leopard =
Grecian Empire

4) The dreadful and terrible beast =
Roman Empire

5) another horn, a little one = **An Ecclesiastical System**

Daniel 7:8 “...in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

The word "king" is synonymous with "kingdom." (Compare verses 17 and 23.) Thus Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—the sole empires mentioned in Scripture from the time of Daniel are

indicated, as pointed out in an earlier chapter. The ten horns from the fourth beast represent the divisions of the old Roman Empire, several of which remain as modern European countries. But what of the murderous little horn also springing from Rome after its division had taken place, the power which "made war with the saints," and which sought to "change the times and the law" (v. 25, RSV)?

The little horn of Daniel 7 thus represents religion run to seed, the system of church and state which dominated medieval times. Ford, Desmond (2012-12-19). Daniel and the Coming King

Because the Scriptures were inaccessible to men, the instincts of the natural heart too often replaced the divine principles. Vestiges of pagan worship were readily incorporated into the Christian church, and the spirit of intolerance so natural to the unrenewed heart frequently bore sway. Ford, Desmond (2012-12-19). Daniel and the Coming King

These tendencies accelerated in the centuries that followed. With the "conversion" of Emperor Constantine, the church was brought into close liaison with the state, establishing a pattern, which dominated medieval Europe until after the Reformation, and bringing a trail of error and woe. Ford, Desmond

(2012-12-19). Daniel and the Coming King

**2. Part Two: An awesome judgment –
Daniel 7:9-12;**

Daniel 7:9-12 “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. “I looked then because of

the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.”

a. Thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated all those empires and kingdoms demolished, and all rule, power, and authority, put down.

Daniel 7:9 “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.” (ESV)

Daniel 7:13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.” (ESV)

Daniel 7:22 “until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.” (ESV)

1) His garment was white as snow, His hair like pure wool = purity of wisdom

2) His throne a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire, a fiery stream issued from before Him = alluding to such seats and thrones as were made to turn about, and to be moved from place to place; denoting the power and providence of God everywhere; and his swiftness in the execution of his judgments.

3) A million ministered to Him, - Psalm 103:20 “Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!” The idea is that there was an immense - a countless host.

4) Daniel 7:10 “...and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; ...” These were not to be judged, but were attendants on him as he pronounced sentence. The judgment here referred to was not on the world at large, but on the beast, preparatory to giving the kingdom to the one who was like the Son of man Daniel 7:13-14.

5) The court (judgment) was seated, and books were opened - the record of the deeds of those who were to be judged.

b. The judgment of the four beasts...

Daniel 7:11-12 “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.”

“All this occurred in fulfillment of what God had shown to his Prophet, namely, after the coming of Christ and the opening of the books, that is after the knowledge which shone upon the world through the preaching of the gospel — the destruction of that fourth beast and of the Roman empire was close at hand.” John Calvin

3. Part Three: The coronation of the Son of Man -

Daniel 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” **(ESV)**

a. Daniel sees one like the Son of Man

1) Coming with the clouds of heaven

Matthew 26:63-64 “But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

The phrase "The Son of Man" - does not occur elsewhere in the Old Testament in such a connection, and with such a reference as it has here, though it is often found in the New, and is, in fact, the favorite term by which JESUS The Saviour designates himself.

That He sustained a peculiar relation to our race; that He was in all respects a man; that He was one of us; that He had so taken our nature on himself that there was a peculiar propriety that a term which would at once designate this should be given to him.

Clouds are an appropriate symbol of the Divinity.

Psalm 104:3 “He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind;” (ESV)

Psalm 97:2 “Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”

Brought near to the Ancient of Days

The allusion in the place before us is not to the last judgment, but to the fact that a kingdom on the earth would be passed over into the hands of the Messiah.

He is represented as coming sublimely to the world, and as receiving a kingdom that would be much greater than those represented by the beasts.

To what precisely does it relate? Are we to suppose that there will be a literal appearing of the Son of man - the Messiah - in the clouds of heaven, and a passing over of the kingdom in a public and solemn manner into the hands of the saints? In reply to these questions, it may be remarked...

(a) That this cannot be understood as relating to the last judgment, for it is not introduced with reference to at all. The "Son of man" is not here represented as coming with a view to judge the world at the winding-up of human affairs, but for the purpose of setting up a kingdom, or procuring a kingdom for **his** saints.

(b) There is no assembling of the people of the world together; no act of judging the righteous and the wicked; no pronouncing of a sentence on either. It is evident that the world is to continue much longer under the dominion of the saints.

(c) It is not to be taken literally; that is, we are not, from this passage, to expect a literal appearance of the **Son of man** in the clouds of heaven, preparatory to the setting up of the kingdom of the saints. For if one portion is to be taken literally, there is no reason why all should not be. Then we are to expect, not merely the appearing of the **Son of man** in the clouds, but also the following things, as a part of the fulfillment of the vision, to

wit: the literal placing of a throne, or seat; the literal streaming forth of flame from his throne; the literal appearing of the "Ancient of days," with a garment of white, and hair as wool; a literal approach of the Son of man to him as seated on his throne to ask of him a kingdom, etc.

(d) The proper interpretation is to regard this, as it was seen by Daniel, as a vision - a representation of a state of things in the world as if what is here described would occur.

That is, great events were to take place, of which this would be a proper symbolic representation - or as if the **Son of man, the Messiah,** would thus appear; would approach the **"Ancient of days;"** would receive a kingdom, and would make it over to the **saints.**

Now, there is no real difficulty in understanding what is here meant to be taught, and what we are to expect; and these points of fact are the following, namely,:

- 1. That he who is here called the "Ancient of days" is the source of power and dominion.**
- 2. That there would be some severe judgment of the power here represented by the beast and the horn.**
- 3. That the kingdom or dominion of the world is to be in fact given to him who is here called "the Son of man" - the Messiah - a fact represented here by his approaching the "Ancient of days," who is the source of all power.**

4. That there is to be some passing over of the kingdom or power into the hands of the saints; or some setting up of a (SPIRITUAL) kingdom on the earth, of which he is to be the head, and in which the dominion over the world shall be in fact in the hands of his people, and the laws of the Messiah everywhere prevail.

b. To Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom -

Daniel 7:14 “And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

1 Corinthians 15:27a “For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” (**ESV**)

Daniel 7:14b “...that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;”

Revelation 14:6 “Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.” (ESV)

Hebrews 12:28 “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,” (ESV)

II. THE VISION INTERPRETED (15-28)

A. EFFECT ON DANIEL...

Daniel 7:15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me.”

B. EXPLANATION TO DANIEL...

Daniel 7:16-18 “I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me

and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’”

1. An overall summary of the vision -

- a. Provided by one of those who stood by (an angel?)
- b. The four beasts represent four kings (kingdoms).
- c. Yet the saints of the Most High shall receive and possess the everlasting kingdom.

**2. Daniel's desire to know more - Daniel
7:19-20;**

Daniel 7:19-20 “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.”

Revelation 13:5-7 “And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,”

3. What Daniel then saw - Daniel 7:21-22

Daniel 7:21-22 “As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.” (ESV)

4. What Daniel then heard - Daniel 7:23-27

Daniel 7:23-27 “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the

kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in

his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” (ESV)

a. Concerning the fourth beast

- 1) It shall be a fourth kingdom on the earth**
- 2) It shall devour the whole earth, trample it, and break it in pieces -- The Roman Empire, which came to rule the Mediterranean world**

b. Concerning the ten horns

- 1) They are ten kings to arise from this fourth kingdom**
- 2) After whom another shall arise -- These may be emperors who ruled during the first century A.D. when the everlasting kingdom**

(i.e., the church) was being established, or the ten kings alluded to in Revelation 17:12-13; then again, the number ten may be symbolic, reflecting their complete or full number, and not ten specific kings.

c. Concerning the little horn

1) He shall subdue three kings

2) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High

3) He shall persecute the saints of the Most High

4) He shall intend to change times and law

5) Into whose hands the saints shall be given for a time, times and half a time

1/ Perhaps 3 1/2 years (1 year, 2 years, 1/2 year), or 42 months - cf. Revelation 13:5; also 11:2,3

2/ A broken, short period of time involving persecution (Harkrider)

This is likely the persecuting emperor of Rome (e.g., Domitian), described as the beast from the sea in Revelation - Revelation 13:1-2,5-7;

Titus Flavius Caesar Domitianus Augustus; 24 October 51-18 September 96) was Roman emperor from 81 to 96. He was the first of the emperors to deify himself during his lifetime by assuming the title of "Lord and God". The book of the Apocalypse was written in the midst of this storm, when many of the Christians had already perished and more were to follow them. (Catholic Encyclopedia).

d. Concerning the judgment

- 1) The dominion of the little horn shall be taken away, consumed and destroyed**
- 2) Then the kingdom (of heaven?), and the dominion and greatness of the kingdoms under heaven shall be given to the saints of the Most High**
- 3) This kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and dominions shall serve Him --**

As depicted in Revelation, the conflict between the Roman empire and the church would end with the ultimate victory of the people of God (who even though martyred, would reign with Christ) - cf. Revelation 17:14; 19:19-20; 20:4;

C. EPILOGUE BY DANIEL...

1. His thoughts greatly troubled him, and his countenance changed - Daniel 7:28

Daniel 7:28 “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.” (ESV)

2. But he kept the matter in his heart -

a. A good course of action whenever we are unsure about the meaning of a particular Scripture, especially that which is prophetic

b. As we continue to read and study, what we learn later may help enlighten the unclear Scripture we have kept in our heart

CONCLUSION:

1. "The Vision Of The Four Beasts" is certainly interesting and challenging... It expands upon the vision seen by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 and I believe it introduces the conflict described in the vision seen by John in Revelation 13-20;

2. I understand these visions to relate details concerning the establishment of "the everlasting kingdom" (i.e., the church)...

a. To occur during the days of the Roman Empire - Daniel 2:44; Luke 1:30-33; Mark 1:14-15;

b. Which began when Jesus ascended to heaven -
Daniel 7:13-14; Acts 1:9; 2:36; Ephesians 1:20-23;
1Peter 3:22; Revelation 1:5,9;

c. Which experienced great persecution at the outset - Daniel 7:25; Revelation 1:9; 2:10; 17:14;

3. But the saints who persevered in those days, even to the point of death, continue to reign with Christ in heaven (i.e., they "possess the kingdom") -
Daniel 7:18; 2Timothy 4:17-18; Revelation 20:4;

The ultimate victory of the church over the Roman Empire came to pass as foretold to both Daniel and John. May this fulfillment encourage us to remain faithful until the time when Jesus returns to "deliver the kingdom to God the Father"! - cf. 1Corinthians 15:23-26;

QUESTIONS And/or
OBSERVATIONS

Prayer Time