

Lesson 8

Daniel's Vision Of the Ancient Of Days

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and teach you His precepts.

Before you start the questions in this week, take some time to read through Daniel 7:9-10 and 7:13-14.

1. How would you entitle the vision of Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14? Place it on your timeline on page 77.

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.”

In today's lesson we get a rare glimpse into the very throne room of God. Take time to meditate on the splendor and majesty and beauty of this revelation as you work through all these questions.

Hebrews 12:28-29

2. In Daniel 7, Daniel receives visions about 4 kingdoms of the earth. Suddenly the vision shifts. Describe what he sees in Daniel 7:9-10.
3. Try to draw it! Don't worry, you don't have to show anyone!
4. Ezekiel chapter 1 describes a vision of Ezekiel's similar to Daniel's. Describe this vision and try to draw it!
5. What additional information do you receive from Ezekiel chapter 10 and Exodus 24:9-11?

12. From Philippians 2:9-11 and Isaiah 9:6-7 discuss the extent of his kingdom and rule.
13. According to Daniel 7, what brings in the final kingdom? Who will rule and for how long? What will it be like?
14. The Old Testament prophets mention the last kingdom of Daniel 7:27. Look up the following verses and discuss what this kingdom will be like.
 - ❖ Isaiah 2:1-4
 - ❖ Isaiah 9:2-7
 - ❖ Isaiah 11:1-10
 - ❖ Zechariah 14:8-11
15. Revelation describes a thousand year kingdom that leads to an eternal kingdom. Read Revelation chapters 20-22 to learn about this. Describe and discuss.
16. As we consider our future, what is our proper response according to Hebrews 12:28-29?
17. Read Hebrews 4:16. Think back over all you have learned about the throne room of God. Take some time right now to take your requests in prayer to Him.
18. As you look back over this lesson, what do you want to remember?

19. Consider the following scriptures and meditate on them using the prayer exercise that is explained on page 81.

❖ Scriptures: **Revelation 4:2-6**

❖ Word or phrase:

❖ Amplification:

❖ Invitation:

Thoughts From Martha:

Now that I look back at things, I think Lesson 7 was a quick left-hook and Lesson 8 the final knockout punch! Last week I was hit with an intense awareness of the power, glory and magnitude of God and His kingdom, but this week I was knocked to the floor with an incurable and insatiable desire: a desire to step outside the boundaries of my own little world and live wholeheartedly in the midst of that infinite and indescribable kingdom of God.

All it took was one more week of delving into those mind-blowing, earth-shattering visions, another week of gazing beyond life's veil into God's invisible realm to completely change my world. The kingdom itself was awesome enough—all those angels and elders, crowns and thrones, that crystal sea and river of fire, but when the spotlight shifted to the Son of Man ... the Source and Center of all life with His eyes aflame, feet aglow, and face shining as the sun ... I was a goner! It was the final blow and defining moment. (May I never recover from its effects!) God walloped me all right: What beauty! What power! What magnificence! And to think it was all a part of me -- of what I was created and called to share in.

It took God throwing a knockout punch to make me realize how small I had been living my life with me at the center of everything. (Well, you can throw my family in there also and maybe a friend or two.) Life was all about my comforts, my happiness, my time and my plans and of course, I was always hoping to find a little bit of God in those extra tough places. "A little more of You over here in this situation, God—just a pinch please, a momentary touch, maybe a simple word for healing, but nothing too life altering or time consuming." It was My World with a bit of God here and there to help lighten my load or smooth the journey. In all fairness, I HAD experienced much more of God in recent years, and I increasingly longed for even more of Him, but I fear what I had longed for was just more of the same: more light in the dark spots, more sweet sprinkles in the bitter places, more courage in the scary times.

Chapter 8 gave me a new longing -- a new heart's desire to remain continually connected to that mysterious presence of God and His kingdom. To have my eyes and ears focused on the eternal, not the temporary...the lasting, not the fleeting ...no matter how dimly I see it or imperfectly I understand it. I want to usher in God's kingdom, allowing Him to rule in my circumstances. I don't want more of God in my world any longer. I want to let go of that world completely ...to die to the old country, so I can become fully alive and free in the new. Free to go and do all that God desires. Free to grow into my truest self in a place where life looms larger -- infinitely and gloriously larger!

Lecture Notes: