

HOPE THAT MOTIVATES FAITHFULNESS

The Ancient of Days

Daniel 7:1-12

Big Idea: God will judge the kingdoms of this world and bring them to an end, replacing them with an everlasting kingdom that will be given to his people.

Apocalyptic literature: A genre unique to the Bible in which prophets recorded visions from God revealing His purpose for the future in a highly symbolic fashion.

I. Four beastly kingdoms rise up from the sea (7:1-8).

Dan. 7:17 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.

The kingdoms in Daniel 2 and 7

<u>Daniel 2 Statue</u>	<u>Daniel 7 Beast</u>	<u>Kingdom</u>	<u>Years</u>
Head of Gold	Lion with wings of an eagle	Babylon	605-539
Chest and arms of silver	Bear	Medo-Persia	539-330
Middle and thighs of bronze	Leopard with wings of a bird	Greece	330-63
Legs of iron, feet of clay	Beast with iron teeth	Rome	63 –

The forth beast:

(1) He has great iron teeth and ten horns (v. 7).

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

(2) Another horn comes up among the ten horns (v. 8).

8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

II. Daniel desires to know the truth about the fourth beast (v. 19-25).

19 "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,

20 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.

Interpretation (v. 23-25)

(1) This kingdom is different (v.23)

23 "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.

(2) This king is different (vv. 24-25)

24 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.

25 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.

III. The Ancient of Days judges the kingdoms of this world (7:9-12).

A. God is seated on His throne as judge (vv. 9-10).

(1) He is eternal (v. 9ab)

9a "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat;

(2) He is holy, righteous and wise (v. 9c)

9cd his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool;

(3) He is mighty (vv. 9e-10)

9e his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10a 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.

B. God will bring to an end all beastly kingdoms of this world (vv. 11-12).

11 "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.

12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

C. God will give his people an everlasting kingdom (vv. 11, 17-18, 21-22, 25-26).

Notice the sudden divine intervention:

11 "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.

17 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,

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.

25 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.

26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 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.'

Salvation

Ephesians 2:1-6

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,