

In Daniel chapter 7, we see a major turning point in the book, as we come to the end of the narrative portion. However, it is important to understand that these chapters are not taking place chronologically after the events of Daniel chapter 6.

For us, living in a modern Western culture, this can feel strange. When we tell a story or give an account of events, we typically expect everything to move in strict chronological order. But this was not unusual for the original audience. In Jewish storytelling, the order of events was often less important than clearly conveying the meaning or purpose behind them. Because of this, the people who first received this book would have been very comfortable with the fact that the story now jumps back in the timeline—and we should be as well.

That leads us to an important question: why is the book of Daniel divided this way, and why does the narrative move backward in time here? One possible reason is that the author wanted to create a clear distinction between the dreams and visions given to Gentile rulers and the dreams and visions given to Daniel himself. This may be a helpful moment to pause and ask students why they believe that distinction matters.

As we read through Daniel 7, the main idea we want to focus on is that **God is sovereign**. Over everything happening in the world, nothing surprises Him. This was true in Daniel's time, and it is still true today. God is not caught off guard by events in history or in our lives—He is ruling over them.

Here are a few ways this sovereignty is demonstrated:

- **Both then and now, God is sovereign over all the nations of the earth.**
 - This means that God knew each nation that would rise to power during Daniel's lifetime and allowed it to take place. Even when modern events or wars shock or disturb us, we can be confident that they were not a surprise to God and that He has permitted them to happen.
 - God also chooses what He reveals to us. He is under no obligation to warn us or explain His plans. Because of that, we should have deep gratitude for the moments when He *does* reveal Himself. This is one of the reasons Scripture is such a gift—God did not have to give us His Word, yet He chose to provide a clear and faithful testimony that points us to Himself.
- **God is not only sovereign in name but active as a ruling King.**
 - Here in Alaska, we experience both national and state governments that often feel distant from the people. Those in power frequently make decisions based on what will keep them in office, knowing that every election cycle brings the risk of losing authority.

- In contrast, we live under the rule of a powerful King whose authority is eternal and undisputed—and who will one day return to reign fully and finally.

So, we have already seen some prophecy by Daniel and we will see more as we go. So here is a chart that I pulled from *Christ-Centered Exposition of Daniel* that hopefully helps keep track of some of the complex imagery we see here

Correlation of Dreams and Visions in Daniel

Image Chapter 2	Beasts Chapter 7	Beasts Chapter 8	Kingdoms Represented
Head of fine gold	Like a lion with eagle's wings		Babylon 626–539 BC
Chest and arms of silver	Like a bear	Ram with two horns	Medo-Persia 539–330 BC
Belly and thighs of bronze	Like a leopard with four wings and four heads	Male goat with one great horn, four horns, and little horn	Greece 330–63 BC
Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay	Incomparable beast with ten horns and little horn		Rome 63 BC–?
Stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah (Son of Man) and saints receive the kingdom		Kingdom of God