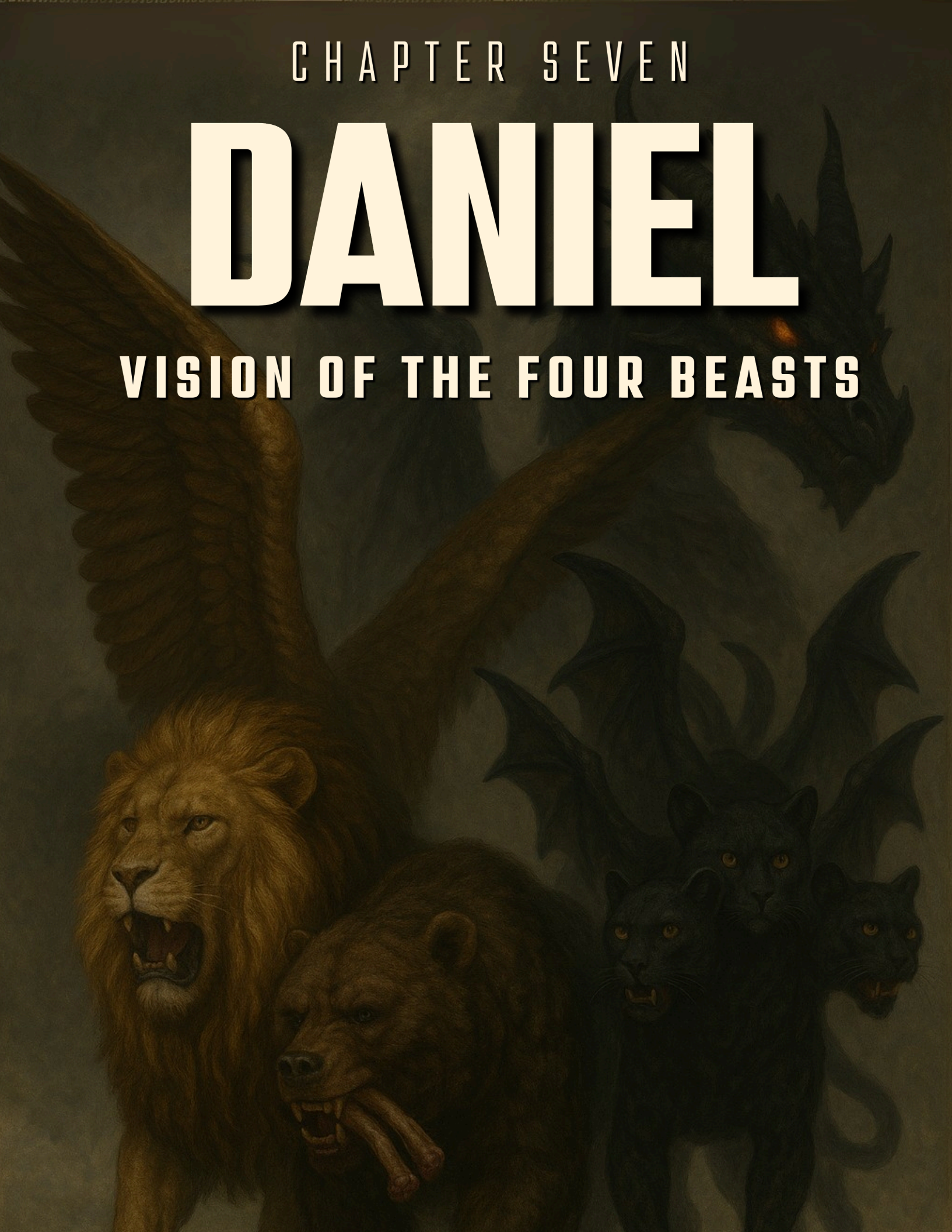


CHAPTER SEVEN

DANIEL

VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS



Introduction

We've arrived at the second half of Daniel, and as we make this transition, we're faced with a major shift in the author's focus and style of writing.

Beginning in chapter seven, we move from historical narrative to predictive prophecy.

And Daniel shifts from a knowledgeable dream interpreter to a bewildered vision receiver.

We even find a shift in the _____ that Daniel uses.

The first half of Daniel is written largely in Aramaic, while the second half is written mostly in Hebrew.

Why the language shift?

Probably because Daniel's focus changed.

The first half of the book deals primarily with the _____ world (chapters 2-7), while the second half deals primarily with Israel (chapters 8-12).

Thus, chapter 7 is the _____ chapter for the whole book, connecting the narrative portion and the predictive prophecy portion of Daniel.

Chapter 7 has been called "*the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events to be found anywhere in the Old Testament*" (Walvoord).

Furthermore, chapter 7 gives us something of a panoramic _____ of world events from the time of Daniel all the way until the Second Coming of Christ and the setting up of His Kingdom.

QUOTE:

"From chapter 7 on, the book is very different. It doesn't continue the chronology of events, but reverts back in time to a series of visions that Daniel had. It's not history; it is prophecy. In a sense, the first half of the book gives the credentials of the prophet, the reliability of the messenger. The second half gives his message. Now, the message of chapter 7 through chapter 12 is really not new.... It's the message that God is _____" (Duncan).

The stories in chapters 1-6 have informed the reader again and again that God is sovereignly in control over all _____ and nations.

In chapters 7-12, we again see that God is sovereignly in control over all men and nations, as well as over _____ and Earth.

This truth is revealed through four different visions that Daniel receives.

In those four visions, God reveals to His servant Daniel that He will both establish and remove man's kingdoms in His sovereign timing; and after all of that is accomplished, He will set up His own kingdom, one which will never come to an end.



Daniel 7:1-8

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.

2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

A Historical Introduction (v. 1)



Daniel 7:1

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.

We left Daniel in chapter 6 as he began serving King Darius the Mede, around _____ BC.

But as chapter 7 begins, Daniel goes back in time to tell the story of this vision which had taken place some eleven years prior, when Belshazzar ruled as king over Babylon.

So this vision chronologically falls somewhere between chapters 4 and 5 of Daniel.

This is one vision, but given in three scenes.

The first scene is found in verses 1-8, where we see the four beasts coming up out of the sea.

The second scene is found in verses 9-14, where we see a description of the Heavenly courtroom.

And the third scene is found in verses 15-28, where Daniel receives an angelic _____ of what he just saw.

In other words, verses 15-28 explain the first half of the chapter.

Daniel tells us that one night as he was lying on his bed, he had a dream (singular) and visions (plural).

The use of the singular emphasizes the _____ of this divine revelation, while the use of the plural focuses on the various parts of it.

Daniel subsequently wrote down the principle parts of his dream, *i.e.*, a “*summary*” of it.

Please note that Daniel does not give all the details in verses 2-14.

Additional details are mentioned in the interpretation that follows (*e.g.*, verse 19 mentions that the fourth beast had bronze claws).

Scene #1—Vision of the Four Beasts (vv. 2-8)



Daniel 7:2-3

2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

The very first thing Daniel mentions is the activity of the “*four winds of heaven.*”

Various forms of this phrase are used in Scripture to communicate primarily two truths: the ***universality*** of something and also _____ ***involvement*** with something.

When Daniel speaks of “*the four winds*” (north, south, east, and west), he is expressing the universality of the vision.

And the fact that these four winds are from “*of heaven*” means that all that follows will be brought about by the divine involvement of Almighty God.

The second thing to notice is the setting of Daniel's vision—the "*great sea*."

This term does not refer to a smaller sea like the Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea, but to the _____ Sea, ringed by many Gentile nations.

Scripture often uses the imagery of waters to describe the Gentile nations (Isa 8:6-8; 17:12-13; 57:20; Jer. 6:23; 46:7-8; 47:2; Mat. 13:47-50; Rev. 17:1, 15).

Thus, these four beasts will come out of the Gentile nations.

Now look at the actual identity of the four beasts.

This isn't difficult, since Daniel tells us their identity in verses 17 and 23.

These beasts are also described as being "*great*," indicating something mightier than a little people group or a small nation.

These four great beasts will rise up out of the Gentile nations, all due to the four winds that stir up the great sea.

The entire picture portrays God's sovereign _____ and working among the nations of the earth.

Beast #1—Like a Lion (v. 4)

In verse 4 Daniel describes the first beast that came out of the great sea.

It's important to note that very little is said about these first three beasts.

The only real information given is that they are, in fact, empires (7:17), and each of them will come to an end (7:12).



Daniel 7:4

4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

The first beast that Daniel saw coming up out of the Gentile nations looked "*like a lion*," but with the "*wings of an eagle*."

The imagery of a lion is used in a variety of ways in Scripture, one of them being to represent powerful, frightening, destructive nations (Isa. 15:9; Jer. 49:19; 50:44; Hos. 5:14).

One such nation was _____ (Jer. 4:7; 49:19; 50:44).

This empire was unique because it had *“the wings of an eagle”* attached to it.

The imagery of an eagle was also used in the Old Testament as a reference to _____
(Deut. 28:49; Jer. 48:40; 49:22; Hos. 8:1).

While not as powerful as a lion, an eagle could move very quickly, catching its prey off guard.

This eagle imagery was also used very specifically of _____ and Babylon (Ezek. 17:3; 7-12).

Thus, this lion with an eagle’s wings was a very appropriate representation of Babylon, which was both ferocious as a lion and swift as an eagle.



It’s also very interesting to note that statues of winged lions were not only found in front of the royal palaces in the city of Babylon, but they also lined the procession way into Babylon.

So the first beast was Babylon, also depicted as the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of chapter 2.

Verse 4 goes on to speak of the transformation that occurred with the lion with the eagle’s wings.

Daniel said that the *“wings were plucked,”* and it was *“made to stand on two feet like a man”* and *“a human mind was also given to it.”*

This transformation no doubt looks at that great _____ that took place in King Nebuchadnezzar, documented for us in chapter 4 of Daniel (vv. 34-37).

More beasts proceed to exit the sea.

And as they do, each one of them can be identified with the different parts of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue dream in chapter 2.



Nebuchadnezzar’s Ishtar Gate
which Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah would certainly have walked through; now in the Pergamum Museum in East Berlin.

Beast #2—Resembling a Bear (v. 5)



Daniel 7:5

5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

The only reference in Scripture that identifies a _____ with a nation is right here in Daniel 7:5.

Daniel makes several brief statements about this bear.

First, it was “*raised up on one side.*” And second, it had “*three ribs...in its mouth....*”

Being raised up on one side would be difficult to understand IF we didn't have the next chapter of Daniel (ch. 8) to explain it.

This empire made up of the Medes and the Persians—and symbolized by the chest and arms of _____ in Nebuchadnezzar's dream—was lopsided.

The more powerful nation was that of the Persians.

The three ribs seen in the mouth of the bear are the three nations that the Medo-Persian Empire conquered—Lydia (an ancient nation in Asia Minor), _____, and Babylon.

The bear is then commanded to devour more than the three ribs already consumed.

This would represent the further conquests of the Medo-Persian Empire.

Daniel's vision continues with a third beast coming up out of the great sea.

Beast #3—Like a Leopard (v. 6)



Daniel 7:6

6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

The third beast that Daniel saw was also no ordinary animal.

This leopard had “*four wings*” and “*four heads.*”

In the Old Testament there are only a few references to leopards, and _____ of them are used to describe a nation, except right here in Daniel 7:6.

However, the figure of a leopard was used by Jeremiah (5:6) and Hosea (13:7) as a symbol of _____ judgment that was to come upon Judah and Israel.

This third beast is clearly Greece under _____.



This picture fits very well with the amazing speed with which the Greeks were able to conquer their enemies. The four wings and four heads represented the four future kingdoms that would come out of the Greek Empire.

When Alexander the Great died suddenly in 323 BC, his empire was divided among his four _____.

Thus, the four-winged and four-headed leopard perfectly represents the Greek Empire which conquered the ancient world with lightning speed and then abruptly split into four parts.



Alexander only endorsed likenesses produced by his court sculptor, Lysippos; the original would have been done in bronze; this is a stone copy done by a Roman artist

Greece was also symbolized by the belly and thighs of _____ in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

The fourth beast that Daniel saw was the most terrifying of all.

It was unlike any creature he had ever seen before.

Beast #4—Dreadful, Terrifying, and Extremely Strong (vv. 7-8)



Daniel 7:7-8

7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

Unlike the first three beasts, the fourth beast which came up out of the sea didn't resemble any _____ animal.

Daniel simply described it as *"different from all the beasts that were before it."*

He mentions that it was *"dreadful and terrifying,"* it was *"extremely strong"* with *"large iron teeth,"* and it *"devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet."*

And if that wasn't scary enough, Daniel mentioned that it had *"ten horns."*

An animal's horns represent its _____; when this term is used in the Bible, it connotes the strength and power of the king or country represented by the animal (1 Kings 22:11; Psa. 75:10; 132:17; Zech. 1:18).

This beast is without question the _____ Empire.

And yet, I believe it's more than just the two legs of iron seen in Nebuchadnezzar's statue in chapter 2.

In verse 8 we are told of an eleventh horn, a little one that emerges from the ten.

This eleventh horn, however, had some _____ features.

First, Daniel said it had *"eyes like the eyes of a man."*

This would suggest the ability to see and to process information—in other words, this man will be utterly brilliant.

Second, he would possess *"a mouth uttering great boasts."*

And in light of later revelation, this refers to blasphemous utterances (Rev. 13:5-6).

The combination of these two characteristics points to a man who will be both brilliant and _____.

He will speak with such eloquence and deception that he will attract and deceive a vast amount of humanity.

QUOTE:

"...he will be Satan's masterpiece—a superbly effective instrument of 'the father of lies,' who was 'a murderer from the beginning' (John 8:44) " (Whitcomb).

There have been no shortage of theories as to who or what empire Daniel has in view here, but the rest of this chapter sheds interpretive light on this question (vv. 19-27).

In chapters 8 and 11 we're given more insight into this fourth and final beast.

And finally, much later, in Revelation 13, we are given even greater insight into the identity of this beast.



Revelation 13:1-2

1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

Notice the similarities between John's vision and Daniel's.

They're the same, just in the _____ order.

And the reason for this is because, while Daniel was looking into the future, the Apostle John was looking back in history.

One scholar wrote this about the "little horn" that Daniel saw.

QUOTE:

"This seems to be the first biblical reference to the individual later described in the Bible as the Antichrist. He appears in 2 Thessalonians 2 as 'the man of lawlessness... doomed for destruction' (v. 3) and is seen again in Revelation" (Boice).

The Nations	Statue Vision (ch. 2)	Beast Vision (ch. 7)
Babylon	The Head of Gold	The Lion with Eagle's Wings
Medo-Persia	The Arms and Chest of Silver	The "Lopsided" Bear
Greece	The Belly and Thighs of Bronze	The Leopard with 4 Heads and 4 Wings
Rome (1)	The Legs of Iron	Dreadful, Strong, Terrifying Beast
Rome (2)	The Feet of Iron and Clay	The Ten Horns
God's Kingdom	The Stone/Mountain	The Kingdom of the "Son of Man"
The Antichrist	XXXXX	The Little Horn

What Daniel saw happening on earth in verses 1-8 was no doubt frightening.

BUT what he sees in Heaven in verses 9-14 was both awesome and hugely comforting.

Scene #2—Vision of the Heavenly Courtroom (vv. 9-14)



Daniel 7:9-14

9 *"I kept looking*

Until thrones were set up,

And the Ancient of Days took His seat;

His vesture was like white snow

And the hair of His head like pure wool.

His throne was ablaze with flames,

Its wheels were a burning fire.

10 *"A river of fire was flowing*

And coming out from before Him;

Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,

And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;

The court sat,

And the books were opened.

11 *Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.*

12 *As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.*

13 *"I kept looking in the night visions,*

And behold, with the clouds of heaven

One like a Son of Man was coming,

And He came up to the Ancient of Days

And was presented before Him.

14 *"And to Him was given dominion,*

Glory and a kingdom,

That all the peoples, nations and men of every language

Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion

Which will not pass away;

And His kingdom is one

Which will not be destroyed.

If Daniel 7 is the most important chapter in the book of Daniel as many commentators suggest, then verses 9-14 are the most important verses in the whole book.

They are important _____, Christologically, and eschatologically.

As Daniel continues to watch (vv. 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11, 13, 21), the scene radically shifts from frightening beasts on earth to a truly glorious scene in Heaven.



Daniel 7:9

9 "I kept looking
Until thrones were set up,
And the Ancient of Days took His seat;
His vesture was like white snow
And the hair of His head like pure wool.
His throne was ablaze with flames,

As Daniel continues to watch, he observes thrones being set up and preparations taking place for a coming judgment.

No doubt Daniel was fascinated by all of the details, but then his attention was focused on One Who is identified as "*the Ancient of Days*."

He "*took His seat*" obviously in preparation to adjudicate things related to the earth.

What Daniel sees here is closely _____ by what John would later see in Revelation 4 and 5.

In that scene, John describes God's throne as surrounded by 24 thrones.

On these thrones were the 24 elders.

And the scene in Revelation 4 and 5 makes it clear that this Person is none other than God the Father.

It's interesting to note that the phrase "*Ancient of Days*" is found only in the book of Daniel (7:9, 13, 22).

This title indicates that God is an _____ Being, existing from eternity past to eternity future.

Hence, His days cannot be numbered, so He is given the title "*Ancient of Days*."

He is an awesome God, exponentially bigger and more powerful than any of the beasts that Daniel had previously described.

In fact, He sits in _____ on the beasts.

Daniel's description of Him seeks to communicate His greatness and glory.

Daniel tells us is that His “*vesture*” or “*clothing was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool*” (v. 9b).

Whiteness points to the infinite _____ and purity of the Most High God (Psa. 51:7; Rev. 1:14).

Next, Daniel said that His “*throne was ablaze with flames*” (v. 9c).

This speaks of God’s purifying and righteous _____ (Isa. 6:1-6; Rev. 4:5).

Then, still speaking of God’s throne, Daniel said, “*Its wheels were a burning fire*” (v. 9d).

In the ancient Middle East, thrones quite often had wheels, so that those heavy golden chairs could more easily be moved.

This apparently pictures God as sitting on a chariot-like throne from which He issues forth His sovereign decrees.

The mobility of His throne also tells us that there are no _____ limitations or restrictions on His judgment.

Daniel continued to describe what he saw in verse 10.

He saw that “*a river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him*” (v. 10a).

Not only was His throne ablaze with fire, and it had wheels of fire, BUT now we’re told that a river of fire was “*flowing and coming out from before Him.*”

It’s clear that fire is closely associated with God’s throne.

Fire is commonly used in the Bible both for the _____ of God and the judgment of God (Ex. 3:2; Deut. 4:24; Psa. 18:8; 97:2-3; Ezk. 1:26-27; Heb. 12:29; Rev. 1:14-15).

Next, Daniel tells us that “*Thousands upon thousands were attending Him; and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him*” (v. 10b).

God’s throne was surrounded by a vast multitude of beings.


In Revelation chapters 4 and 5, the holy angels are prominent, and it is most likely this group that was “*attending Him.*”

Now, while the “*thousands upon thousands*” were God’s countless angels, the “*myriads upon myriads*” who were standing before Him are apparently those who are about to be _____ in God’s divine court.

Thus, what Daniel witnessed was God Almighty judging millions and millions of people who were standing before Him.

At the end of verse 10 we read, *“The court sat, and the books were opened”* (v. 10c).

Again, this is reminiscent of what the Apostle John saw.



Revelation 20:12
*12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead **were judged** from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*

All of these books point to the fact that our God keeps a perfect _____ of everything ever said or done and will use these as a basis for future judgment (Ex. 32:32; Psa. 69:28; 139:16; Mal. 3:16; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 20:12, 15; 21:27).

ALL people will one day have to stand before God to give an account.


ALL unbelievers will stand before Him at the Great White Throne Judgment and afterwards will be cast into the _____ to pay for their sins (Rev. 20:11-15).

Believers, however, will not have to appear at this judgment, since all of our sins have been placed on Christ and paid for at the Cross.

But we **will** all have to stand before God to give an account of what we did or didn't do for His _____ with our time, talents, and treasure.

This is called the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 14:8-10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15).

Then Daniel's attention once again returns to earth.



Daniel 7:11-12
*11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.*

Daniel's attention is once again on the *“little horn,”* a.k.a., the Antichrist, and the boastful, blasphemous words coming out of his mouth (Dan. 7:8; 2 Thess. 2:4).

Next, Daniel said that the beast was _____.

The context would indicate that Daniel is referring to the fourth beast in his vision, that is, the revived Roman Empire in the Last Days that will be led by none other than the Antichrist.

The empire will be divinely destroyed, and its wicked leader will be cast into the Lake of Fire.



Revelation 19:20-21

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him Who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

This event will put an end to what the Bible refers to as “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24-27).



Daniel 7:12

12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

In other words, the remaining three kingdoms (or some parts of their cultures) would _____ in some form until Christ’s Messianic Kingdom comes.

It’s at that time that God will make all things new.

Daniel’s attention is then once again drawn back to Heaven (vv. 13-14).



Daniel 7:13-14

*13 “I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a **Son of Man** was coming,
And He came up to the **Ancient of Days**
And was presented before Him.*

*14 “And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an **everlasting dominion**
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.*

Two Persons take center stage in Daniel's heavenly vision: "*One like a Son of Man*" and "*the Ancient of Days*."

These two verses in Daniel must have been well known and hugely important to the authors of the New Testament, because they are frequently referenced.

And once again, we see a clear parallel between these two verses and the book of Revelation (ch. 5).

This vision also complements Nebuchadnezzar's vision in chapter 2 where the "*stone cut out without hands*" completely destroyed the great statue and then ushered in the rule of _____ in His everlasting kingdom.

Daniel saw someone coming "*with the clouds of heaven*," which is a clear indication of deity (Ex. 13:21-22; 16:10; 19:9, 16; 24:16; 34:5; Num. 11:25; Ps. 97:2; 104:3; Isa. 19:1; Ezk. 10:4; Nah. 1:3; Mat. 24:30; Acts 1:9, 11; 1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 1:7).

This Person is clearly pictured as deity, yet Daniel identifies Him as "*One like a Son of Man*"—Jesus Christ!

In fact, the name " _____ " was our Lord's favorite self-designated title and was used almost exclusively by Him.

It appears over eighty times in the four gospel accounts.

Thus, Jesus Christ did not hesitate to identify Himself with the "*Son of Man*" of Daniel chapter 7!

Jesus was given this glorious kingdom following His atoning work on the Cross when He ascended back into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father.

This represents a fulfillment of the promise that God the Father had made earlier to God the Son.



Psalm 2:6, 8

6 "*But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.*"

8 "*Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of
the earth as Your possession.*"

However, Jesus Himself declared in Matthew 24:29-31 that the full manifestation and realization of this kingdom will not occur until He comes again "*on the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory*."

As one author said, a vision "*that began like a nightmare with monsters coming out of the sea, ends happily and hopefully with a Man coming out of Heaven Whom God crowns sovereign over the world!*" (Duncan, *Daniel*).

Verses 15-28 bring Daniel's vision to a close.

It easily divides into three parts: A general interpretation (vv. 15-18), a specific interpretation (vv. 19-27), and a conclusion (v. 28).

Scene #3—Vision of a Heavenly Interpreter (vv. 15-28)

A General Interpretation (vv. 15-18)



Daniel 7:15-18

15 *“As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.*

16 *I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:*

17 *‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.*

18 *But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’*

The overpowering nature of these heavenly visions affected the godly man Daniel physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Not only were the four beasts horribly _____, but so too were the fiery judgments from God Almighty.

Being a conduit for the revelation of God was no easy task for Daniel. This was an extremely important vision from God. However, Daniel had no idea what it all meant.

On previous occasions, Daniel, with God's help, had successfully interpreted the dreams of others.

But now his interpretive abilities were gone. He didn't know what his own dream and visions meant.

So verse 16 tells us that Daniel approached *“one of those who were standing by.”*

This could have been one of the *“elders”* or one of the *“angels.”*

It's quite possible that it was the angel _____, since he spoke with Daniel on two other occasions (Dan. 8:16-17; 9:21).


Regardless of who it was, it's interesting to note how similar Daniel's experience was to the Apostle John's in Revelation.

In Revelation chapter 7, we read that it was one of the _____ who spoke to John and gave him insight into what he saw (7:13-17).

However, later in chapters 19 and 21, an angel clarifies things for John.

So whether this was an angel or an elder or someone else, we simply don't know.

What *is* clear, however, is the fact that Daniel asked the right source.



Daniel 7:17-18
17 'These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.'
18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'

This heavenly interpreter explained to Daniel that these four “*beasts*” represent “*four kings*” who will arise out of the earth.

Those four kingdoms were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

The “*kings*” of those kingdoms were the most notable _____ of each of the four empires:

Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander the Great, and the so-called “*little horn*”—the Antichrist.

The heavenly interpreter then tells Daniel that “*the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.*”

Once again, the consistent testimony of _____ is that in the end, God wins.

And because God wins, ALL His people win too!

So, who are the “*saints*” of verse 18?

I believe that all the _____ of all time are in view here—all the Jews and Gentiles of all eras who would ever repent from their sins and place their faith in the Messiah.

Most of what the messenger said made sense to Daniel, for it fit perfectly with King Nebuchadnezzar's prior dream.

BUT what still didn't make sense to Daniel was the fourth beast and its _____ horns.

He understood what needed to be understood about Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.

But he still had questions about the Roman Empire.

**Daniel 7:19-22**

19 *“Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,*

20 *and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.*

21 *I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them*

22 *until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.*

Daniel asks three more questions of this heavenly interpreter.

The first question Daniel had was about the _____ beast.

He said that he *“desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast”* (v. 19).

His second question is found in verse 20.

There he asked about *“the ten horns that were on [the beast’s] head”* (v. 20a).

And his third question had to do with the *“other horn”* (vv. 20b-22).

Daniel’s interpreter answered each of his questions, one after the other, beginning with the fourth beast.

Daniel’s First Question Answered (v. 23)**Daniel 7:23**

23 *“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.’*

The first three earthly empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece—would be _____ in scope.

BUT this fourth kingdom will be different than all the other kingdoms in two key ways.

First, it would be different in its _____, because this leader will be against (anti-) Christ and will be energized by Satan himself (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13, 17, 18).

Second, this kingdom will be different in its _____.

It will *“devour,” “tread down,”* and *“crush” “the **whole** earth.”*

While all the previous empires dealt with a certain geographical territory, this empire will engulf the whole earth.

The book of Revelation teaches us that Antichrist will be an unparalleled _____ leader.

Revelation 6:2 says that he will come out “*conquering, and to conquer.*”

And people living during that time will say, “*Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?*” (Revelation 13:4).

His kingdom will dominate the whole earth for three and a half years.

Daniel’s second question had to do with “*the ten horns that were on [the beast’s] head*” (v. 20a).

Daniel’s Second Question Answered (v. 24)



Daniel 7:24

24 *As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.*

This was a clear shift from Nebuchadnezzar’s two legs of iron mentioned in chapter 2.

The reply was that “*out of this kingdom ten kings will arise*” (v. 24a).

Unfortunately, Daniel’s heavenly interpreter didn’t elaborate any more on those ten horns.

BUT for those of us living in New Testament times, we have other prophetic books and prophetic passages that do elaborate more—like the book of _____.

In Revelation 17 we find a passage that is especially relevant.



Revelation 17:12-14

12 *The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with **the beast** for one hour.*

13 *These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.*

14 *These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”*

Here we learn that the ten horns are ten kings, and out of those ten kings, one more king, “*the beast*” or “*little horn*” will arise.

Daniel’s third question had to do with the “*other horn*” that rose to prominence over the other ten (v. 20b-22).

Daniel's Third Question Answered (vv. 24-25)



Daniel 7:24-25

24 *As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and **another will arise** after them, and **he will be different** from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.*

25 *He will speak out **against the Most High** and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

According to this passage, “another [horn],” that is, the “little horn” (the _____) will arise after the ten horns.

But notice that he will arise while the ten are all still in existence.

This future ruler will uproot three of the ten, which shows that they are all _____.

In other words, they are not ten successive kings or kingdoms.

Christ and the Apostles referred to this person as yet _____ to their time (Mat. 24:5, 15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; 1 John 2:18; 4:3; Rev. 13, 17, 19).

There is no need for us to try to find fulfillment for this prophecy at some point in past history.

This vision is still pointing to the future, when the last _____ of the Roman Empire emerges and is dominated by the “little horn.”

As mentioned already, this “little horn” (the Antichrist) will conquer three of the ten horns, bringing three of those kings under his authority.

What happens with the other seven?

We’re not told, but most likely they simply acquiesced and submitted to the Antichrist and were absorbed by him.

This seems to be what Revelation 17:12-13 says.

So, after the “little horn” conquers the three, he becomes the head of all eleven kings.

In verse 25 of Daniel 7, our heavenly interpreter goes on to outline three great evils that will characterize the Antichrist during the last days.

First, he mentions the Antichrist’s _____ words.

“He will speak out against the Most High” (v. 25a).

Second, he says that *“He [the Antichrist] will...wear down the saints of the Highest One” (v. 25b).*

This theme of the _____ of Israelite believers is first introduced here in this chapter (vv. 21, 25).

But it will be emphasized again and again as we traverse our way through the concluding chapters of Daniel (8:24; 9:26; 11:32-35; 12:10).

This Satanically inspired man will hunt down and persecute the people of God.

His persecution will be so devastating that _____ of the nation of Israel will die (Zech. 13:9; Isa. 6:13).


And **third**, we are told that *“...he will intend to make alterations in times and in law” (v. 25c).*

In other words, the Antichrist will attempt to alter God’s times and laws.

He will be such a man of sin and lawlessness, that he will seek to cast off every divine _____ that has been divinely imposed upon the world for man’s good and God’s glory.

We’re obviously not there in our study yet, but in Daniel chapter 9, we find that all three of these events will take place during the second half of the Tribulation Period.

Now, before we move on, I need to deal with the time frame that Daniel mentions for these events. This too is found at the end of verse 25.



Daniel 7:25d
25 ...and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

If you’re at all familiar with the book of Revelation, you should recognize this phraseology.

And if you’re at all familiar with the book of Daniel, you’ll remember that this same expression will be used again in chapter 12, verse 7.

It’s normally understood to be a reference to a three-and-a-half year period.

In other words, *“time”* equals one _____.

“Times” equals two years.

And *“half a time”* equals half a year.

This interpretation is confirmed in later revelation (Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

The Career of the “Little Horn” (Antichrist)

1. Leader of one nation	2. The “Little Horn” by means of conquest becomes the ruler of a confederacy of eleven western nations	3. The “Little Horn” with Satan’s backing and power becomes the ruler of the entire world for 42 months	4. He will be judged and destroyed by Jesus at the Second Coming

The 7-Year Period of the Tribulation

The Antichrist will have many victories along the way, especially during those last three-and-a-half years. But God’s judgment is coming.

God’s Justice and Judgment is Certain (vv. 26-27)



Daniel 7:26-27

26 But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

I absolutely love how this chapter ends.

God will take care of all of His _____.

Judgment will be executed on the _____ inspired Antichrist and his wicked kingdom.

The completeness of this judgment is attested elsewhere (Dan. 2:35, 45; 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 17:14, 19-21).

With simplicity and yet with great clarity the heavenly interpreter declares that following this last horrible human empire, God will establish His _____ kingdom, and it will never come to an end.

QUOTE:

“Piddly despots like Antiochus Epiphanes come and go (175-164 BC). Madmen like Nero are here today and gone tomorrow (AD 54-68). Lunatics like Hitler have a reign of terror only for a season (AD 1933-45). Antichrist, the final ruler emerging from the sea, will have his day for only three and a half years. In marvelous and striking contrast, God’s kingdom “will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey Him” (v. 27).

Despite the happy ending, Daniel was still disturbed. No doubt it was a **lot** to take in all at once.

**Daniel 7:28**

28 “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

Daniel probably realized that this world would have to go through much evil before God’s people finally reached the glorious rule and reign of the _____.

The emotional shock almost overwhelmed him, as he contemplated the scope of this cosmic war.

Later visions would have a similar effect on this man of God (Dan. 8:27; 10:9).

Life Lessons**Life Lesson #1—Maintain the Primacy of Scripture**

We wholeheartedly believe in the primacy of Scripture.

And when we interpret God’s Word, including prophetic prophecy, we must be very careful to maintain the primacy of Scripture.

We must not use _____ to interpret Scripture.

Rather, we must use Scripture to interpret current events.

This is what the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to do.

**2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)**

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Life Lesson #2—Remember God’s Books

Our passage tells us that *“the books were opened”* (Dan. 7:10).

We all need to keep in mind the fact that GOD keeps a perfect record of every event, which He will use as the basis of His future _____ on all mankind (Ex. 32:32; Psa. 69:28; 139:16; Philip. 4:3).

At that future judgment, God’s books will be opened (Rev. 20:12, 15; 21:27).

For the unbeliever, he will have to give an account for every impure thought, every _____ word, and every unkind deed.

BUT for the believer, all of his sins have been nailed to the Cross (Col. 2:13-14).

So we can wholeheartedly rejoice that our names are already recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27).

Life Lesson #3—Trust God's Sovereign Control

One of the overarching purposes of Bible prophecy is to bring _____ to God's people.

The book of Revelation is a good example. The recipients of this book were suffering persecution, and some of them were even being put to death for their faith (Rev. 2:13).

And so, one of the purposes of that prophetic book was to give the readers _____ that God would take care of everything (Rev. 21-22).

The same is true of the book of Daniel as well. The Jewish captivity in Babylon was not the end of the story for the Jewish people. God was fully in charge. He knew what was going on. Nothing escaped His notice or His care.

And today, we too, as God's _____, can take our circumstances and our trials to Him, knowing that God has us right where He wants us.

Beloved, since our world seems to be spinning out of control, it's good to remember that we too can trust that our God is actually in control.

In the end, He wins. And because He wins, we win too!

Life Lesson #4—Endure Persecution and Suffering

Daniel and his three friends suffered under the hands of godless leaders again and again.

AND YET, they never _____!

Beloved, God calls His people to patiently endure in the midst of their trials and tribulations.



James 1:12 (ESV)

*12 Blessed is the man who **remains steadfast under trial**, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.*

**James 5:7-11 (ESV)**

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

*8 You also, **be patient**. **Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*

9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Although James mentions _____ there is no doubt that he could also easily have used Daniel as an example of someone who remained steadfast.

→→ But what about you?

→→ Do you think that James could have written your name there?

