

## The Book of Daniel

### Week 8

By recording his visions Daniel invites the reader to be a spectator and observe the action as it unfolds before him. Dreams happen while one is asleep and visions come while one is in a state of altered consciousness. The documentation of prophetic dreams, visions, and oracles made the prophecies more concrete and facilitated their dissemination to the intended audience.

1. Setting of the Vision
  - a. First Year of King Belshazzar king of Babylon
  - b. Daniel standing looking out over the Mediterranean Sea.
  
2. 4 Great Beasts
  - a. Like a lion with eagle's wings (speed and strength). → Babylonian Empire
  - b. Like a bear (insatiable nature of military prowess) → Medo-Persian Empire
  - c. Like a leopard with 4 wings & 4 heads (FAST & Powerful) → Greek Empire
  - d. Unnamed but having iron teeth and ten horns (WHOA!) → Roman Empire
  
3. Little Horn
  - a. Personified with human eyes and a boastful mouth (an individual)
  - b. Made war with saints and prevailed over them
  - c. Personification of evil, stan, antichrist
  - d. Boastful, arrogant, blasphemes, rude, etc
  
4. Ancient of Days
  - a. This title of God is completely unique to the book of Daniel
  - b. White Garments = Symbolize God's splendor and purity
  - c. White Hair = God's majesty, splendor and wisdom
  - d. Fire = symbolizes presence of God and streams of fire is God's judgement and presence flowing out over all things.
  - e. Thousands and thousands and thousands of angels serving/worshipping
  - f. Books of judgment are open, and the little horn is about to be judged
  
5. Son of Man
  - a. Anointed as a king and given dominion, glory, and a Kingdom.
  - b. All peoples, nations and languages will serve this king.
  - c. His reign and rule will be everlasting, and His kingdom will never pass away.

Unlike the kingdoms of the beasts, who come and go, the kingdom of the Son of Man will never end. This vision is a vision of comfort and a vision of warning for God's people. There will be a leader who will trample upon the people of God and will cause great suffering. But there will also come One who will stand before the Ancient of Days and be given complete authority over all things. This person is Jesus Christ and his reign and rule has begun and we are part of that

kingdom. Washed in his waters of forgiveness and made citizens of a kingdom that will have no end.