

Daniel 7 Study Guide: “The Son of Man Claims His Inheritance”

Key Scripture Daniel 7:1-14 (focus on vv. 9-14)

- Daniel’s night vision: Four beasts from the sea, the Ancient of Days on His throne, and “one like a son of man” coming with the clouds. **Supporting Texts:**
- Daniel 2 (statue/kingdoms parallel)
- Psalm 2:7-8 (nations as inheritance)
- Matthew 28:18-20 (Great Commission)
- John 3:1-7 (born again to see the kingdom)

Main Theme Daniel 7 reassures God’s people in exile (and us today) that **God is sovereign on the throne** and **His everlasting kingdom will never be destroyed**, even amid terrifying worldly powers.

Sermon Outline (Bullet Points)

- **Genre Shift in Daniel**
 - Chapters 1-6: Narrative stories (clear, familiar).
 - Chapters 7-12: Apocalyptic visions/dreams (weird creatures, symbols—similar to Revelation).
 - Same core truths: God rules over history.
- **Why Study Difficult Passages?**
 - Keeps the preacher a lifelong student of the Word.
 - Equips the congregation to faithfully engage the whole Bible (not “Where’s Waldo” picking).
 - Prevents avoiding hard texts like Daniel 7.
- **The Vision Highlights**
 - **Four Beasts:** Represent successive kingdoms (mirroring Daniel 2). The fourth is especially terrifying with 10 horns and a boastful little horn.
 - **Ancient of Days** (v. 9-10): God the Father — pure, holy, seated in judgment. Throne with fire, river of fire, thousands upon thousands attending, books opened.
 - **The Little Horn:** Speaks boastfully; ultimately judged.
 - **Son of Man** (v. 13-14): Jesus, coming **to** the Ancient of Days (ascension, not second coming). Receives authority, glory, and sovereign power. His dominion is everlasting.
- **Core Message**
 - The vision sweeps prophetic history from Daniel’s time to Christ’s return and final victory over evil.
 - **Plain thing / Main thing:** God is on the throne. His kingdom outlasts all earthly kingdoms.
 - Jesus completes the mission Adam failed, claims the nations as inheritance, and commissions His followers.

Quotable Quotes

- “Daniel was not written to intrigue us or to bamboozle us. It was written to reassure us that **God is on the throne** and that **his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.**”
- “Once we are convinced of the truth that God’s kingdom will outlast all the kingdoms of the world and that his dominion will never come to an end, then we are in possession of a **key to all of history.**”
- “The son of man... approached the ancient of days... He had a job to do... ‘I have done it and now I want my inheritance.’ And what is my inheritance? **The nations.**”
- “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations.**” (echoing Matthew 28)

Application Jesus’ ascension victory gives us confidence and a clear mission: Proclaim the Gospel so people can be born again and enter the Kingdom. We must hold the main thing as the main thing amid confusing symbols and cultural pressures.

Questions for Further Thought / Discussion

1. How does the vision of the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man in Daniel 7 strengthen your trust in God’s sovereignty during chaotic times (personally, culturally, or globally)? Which verse stands out most?
2. Jesus claimed the nations as His inheritance and then commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). In what ways are you currently participating in this mission, and what might one next step look like?
3. How can we practically keep “the plain things the main things” when studying difficult or debated Bible passages like Daniel 7?

Memory Verse Daniel 7:14 — “He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

Recommended: Join the Tuesday Bible study for a deeper, verse-by-verse look at the rest of Daniel 7.