

Session 2 God's Sovereign Leadership over History (Dan. 7:9-14)

I. OUTLINE OF DANIEL 7:1-14

- A. Daniel's first vision: four beasts symbolizing four world empires (7:1-14)
 - 1. Introduction (7:1-3)
 - 2. The first three beasts (7:4-6)
 - 3. Fourth beast: Antichrist's empire foreshadowed by the Roman Empire (7:7-8)
 - 4. God's leadership in the end times (7:9-14)
 - a. God enthroned in majesty (7:9-10)
 - b. Destruction of the Antichrist (7:11-12)
 - c. Jesus' heavenly coronation as King over all nations (7:13-14)

II. INTRODUCTION

- A. Daniel's vision of God's throne is one of the most glorious pictures of the throne in Scripture. John's vision of the throne in Revelation 4-5 expands on what God showed Daniel. When we read both passages together we gain more understanding
- B. In the scene right before he saw God's throne, Daniel saw a dreadful beast, which represents the Antichrist's empire (7:7-8). What he saw was terrifying. How was he to respond to it?
*⁷"I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast [Antichrist], **dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong...** ⁸[he had] a mouth speaking pompous words." (Dan. 7:7-8)*
- C. Later, Daniel sees that the saints were "given" into his hand by God (7:25). The phrase "it was given" (or its equivalent), referring to God, is found often in the books of Daniel and Revelation (Dan. 2:23, 37, 38; 4:16; 5:28; 7:4, 6, 14, 25, 27; Rev. 6:2, 4, 8; 9:1, 3; 11:2; 13:5, 7, 14-15).
²⁵"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High...the saints shall be given into his hand..." (Dan. 7:25)
- D. John saw that God gave the Antichrist authority or influence over every nation (Rev. 13:5-7). God will raise up the Antichrist to great authority for 3½ years to bring the entire earth to a place of decision for righteousness or unrighteousness (Dan. 7:12; 2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13). God will grant authority to allow certain terrible things to occur (Rev. 6:2, 4, 8; 9:1, 3, 5; 11:2; 13:5, 7, 14-15).
⁵He [Antichrist] was given...authority [by God] to continue for forty-two months. ⁷It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Authority was given him [by God] over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (Rev. 13:5-7)
- E. All authority belongs to Jesus (Mt. 28:18), who will give the Antichrist a specific sphere to operate in for 3½ years to judge the wicked and to purify His people. In the Great Tribulation the seven seals of judgment are released by Jesus, not the devil (Rev. 5:5; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 8:1).
¹⁸"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Mt. 28:18)

- F. Some ask why the Antichrist's evil empire will even exist. To understand the answer, we must know that it is God who raises up the Antichrist to accomplish His purpose, and that God will then destroy him. Certainly, Satan and sinful people will also have a role in this.
- G. God raised up Pharaoh in Moses' day as the most powerful man on earth (Ex. 9:16; Rom. 9:17). God raised up an evil Assyrian leader named Sennacherib to judge Israel in 721 BC (Isa. 10:5), and He raised up Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon in 586 BC to discipline Israel (Jer. 22:7; 25:9, 12; 27:6; 43:10; Hab. 1:5-7). God raised up the Persians to judge the Babylonians (Isa. 13:3-5).
¹⁷*The Scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." (Rom. 9:17)*
- H. God showed Daniel that He sets into place the leaders of the nations to serve His purposes.
¹⁷*"...the Most High...gives it [power] to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men." (Dan. 4:17)*
¹*There is no authority except from God...the authorities that exist are appointed by God...*
⁴*He is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (Rom. 13:1-4)*
- I. God works on His own timetable that He set in His perfect wisdom. The Father has set the day for Jesus to return, and has set the boundaries of all nations (Mt. 24:36; Acts 1:7; 17:26). God has His plan all mapped out. He has fixed the time of the end (Acts 1:7). Daniel was shown that God has determined 70 weeks, 42 months, 1,260 days, 1,290 days, and 1,335 days, plus the unfolding of kingdoms in an appointed time frame (2:31-45; 7:1-8). Belshazzar saw God's finger write "MENE," which spoke of his days being numbered (5:26). Words and phrases like "until" and "the time appointed" or the "time of the end" emphasize how precise God is in His plans.
- J. Many in the nations will worship the Antichrist, because they will be awestruck and terrified by him. He will intimidate and terrify the nations with his great power and bold claims and threats.
²*The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority...*
³*All the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴So they...worshiped the beast [Antichrist], saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Rev. 13:2-3)*
- K. The way to overcome being awed and terrified by the power of the Antichrist is to grow in the revelation of the sovereignty and majestic beauty of the Father and His Son sitting on the throne. If our focus is on man's evil kingdoms then we will become afraid and offended. God's end-time judgments will destroy the Antichrist's kingdom as they remove everything that hinders love.
- L. No aspect of God's grace more powerfully transforms our emotions or satisfies our heart than when God the Spirit reveals God to the human heart. I don't just want to serve Him, but to be obsessed with His magnificence. *Is your goal to know the power and pleasure of being obsessed with Jesus?* This equips us to **overcome temptation**, to **endure persecution**, and to **engage in partnership** with Him in His end-time plan, instead of being overcome with fear and intimidation.
- M. The Spirit was given to us to be our escort into the deep things of God's heart. He knows more about Jesus than we can imagine. He will reveal as much of Jesus as we are hungry for.

III. VISION OF THE THRONE: GOD'S LEADERSHIP OVER THE NATIONS (DAN. 7:9-10)

- A. Immediately after the Father's majesty is revealed to Daniel (7:9-10), then the Father's plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over all the earth is also shown to him (7:11-14). This is the pattern that we see in Revelation 4-5. After the Father's majestic beauty is revealed in Revelation 4, His plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over all the earth is set forth in Revelation 5.
- B. God is enthroned in majesty in His heavenly courtroom (7:9-10). The heavenly court was seated, and the books were opened. The Father sits as judge over the nations as He fulfills His plans for world history. We see God's sovereignty over the Antichrist and wicked world empires.
- ⁹"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days [the Father] was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰a fiery stream [river; NAS] issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." (Dan. 7:9-10)*
- C. Ancient of Days: The name Ancient of Days depicts the Father's eternal nature as the uncreated God who exists from all eternity, who works out His plans from the perspective of eternity.
1. Daniel 7 focuses upon the big picture, the ultimate—God. We cannot understand the intensity of evil and suffering in God's end-time purpose without seeing that He is that Ancient of Days. This name is used only three times in the Bible—all in Daniel 7, where God's plan for the end times is set forth.
 2. This name points to the eternal God who guarantees the triumph for His people and the complete fulfillment of His eternal purposes. The Father never deviates from His goals and plans. The Father's main purpose can be summed up in the Son of Man. The Father gives it all into the hands of one Man—the Son of Man (7:13).
 3. In God's permissive will, He gives evil men surprising latitude to act wickedly. The Father has the last word on every nation, governmental leader, and every person. In due time, every evil leader and government is removed by God. This truth is emphasized in each of Daniel's four visions. Daniel witnessed the overthrow of the wicked Babylonian Empire with his own eyes (5:30-31).
- D. White as snow: The Father's garments and hair were bright white like snow. His garments speak of His deeds; His hair speaks of His wisdom. All the Father's thoughts, actions, and plans are totally pure and perfectly wise. Jesus also appeared with white hair like the Father (Rev. 1:14).
- E. His throne: God's throne is the governmental center of the universe. It declares that God is the ruler over everything. It speaks of His sovereignty over the nations. It guarantees us that all of God's plans will come to pass. His throne is not temporary like the Antichrist's. In the book of Revelation, God's throne is the primary focus—referred to 40 times, with seven throne scenes (Rev. 4:2-6:17; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 14:1-5; 15:2-8; 19:1-8; 21:1-22:9).
- F. Seated: The Father sits in total confidence and security. None can successfully challenge Him.

- G. **A fiery stream:** A river of fire (7:10, NAS) comes from the throne, and a sea of glass mingled with flaming fire is before the throne. The saints gather together on the sea of glass in God's fire (Rev. 15:2).
²I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)
- H. God's throne is the place of our greatest fascination, intimacy, celebration, safety, and protection. See the seven throne scenes in the book of Revelation (4:2-6:17; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 14:1-5; 15:2-8; 19:1-8; 21:1-22:9). We have access to God's throne now to find grace and mercy (Heb. 4:16).
³The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [New Jerusalem], and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads...⁵And they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:3-5)
⁴God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Rev. 21:4)
- I. All of God's enemies will stand before His throne (Rev. 20:11-15). God's throne is the place of great danger for His enemies. Divine decrees go forth that punish evil (2 Thes. 1:9).
¹¹I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it...¹²I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened...and the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books...¹⁵Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15)
- J. **The books were opened:** The heavenly books record the deeds of every person. God has books in His court (Ex. 32:32; Ps. 139:16; 87:6; Dan. 7:10; 12:1; Lk. 10:20). They contain detailed accounts of every person. The Book of Life records the actions of believers (Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27). God has books that contain details of the wicked (Rev. 20:12). Here, the words and deeds of the Antichrist (little horn) are under review. The pompous words of the Antichrist (7:8) bring a strong response from God's court in heaven.
- K. **His garment:** God's garments being as white as snow speak of His activities being righteous and of His virtuous administration in His creation (Rev. 19:7). He does all things in great purity.
- L. **His hair:** His head is like pure wool, which speaks of His wisdom and purity in governing.
- M. **Thrones were put in place:** Even now there are elders sitting on thrones before the Father.
⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Rev. 4:4)
- N. **The court was seated:** Daniel sees God's court in session (7:9, 10, 26), with the Judge taking his seat to evaluate the nations. In the midst of great chaos on earth is the all-powerful throne of the Ancient of Days. The heavenly court administers God's decrees about the final government of the earth. History is not spiraling out of control. Even when it appears that beast kingdoms are ruling without any account, the Ancient of Days is bringing forth His glorious purposes.

IV. THE FATHER'S ROYAL COURT

- A. Around the throne is God's royal court—it is the place of majesty, strength, and beauty, etc.
⁶Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)
- B. Revelation 4 gives us the greatest revelation of God's beauty in Scripture. What God put around Himself expresses His beauty to creation. I refer to Revelation 4 as the "beauty realm of God."
³He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne...like an emerald. ⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones... I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their head. ⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:3-6)
- C. I see four main categories with twelve details in John's description of God's royal court:
1. The beauty of **God's person**: how God looks, feels, and acts (Rev. 4:3)
 2. The beauty of **God's people**: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)
 3. The beauty of **God's power**: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, voices (Rev. 4:5a)
 4. The beauty of **God's presence**: His fire on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)
- D. Glorious light filled with many colors radiates from God's presence, including the brightness of diamonds (jasper), fiery red glory (sardius), and the colors of the emerald rainbow (Rev. 4:3). The jasper speaks of His splendor; the sardius, His fiery desires; and the rainbow, His mercy.
- E. God's throne releases beautiful, glorious, and terrifying manifestations of His heart and mind to the saints—**lightnings, thunderings, and voices** proceed from His throne (Rev. 4:5a).
- F. God's beauty is seen in how the Holy Spirit imparts His presence to those around Him. It is manifested with fire on the seven lamps, the four seraphim, and the crystal sea (Rev. 4:5-7).

V. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 7:11-12)

- A. The Antichrist and his empire will be destroyed at Jesus' second coming (7:11-12). It is futile for the Antichrist to resist God. In God's timing, His judgments will destroy the Antichrist.
¹¹I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast [Antichrist] was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (Dan. 7:11-12)
- B. **Pompous words**: The Antichrist will be unrepentant and unmoved by the decrees of judgment issuing forth from God's court. He will continue to speak great evil (7:8, 11, 20, 25). His arrogant words will create fear (threats) and/or excitement (false promises) in the nations. His pompous, arrogant words are emphasized four times in this chapter (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25).
⁵He [Antichrist] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies...⁶He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle... (Rev. 13:5-6)

- C. ***The beast was slain***: Daniel saw the defeat of the Antichrist without seeing how he will be slain. In the New Testament we see that Jesus, the Son of Man, kills him (2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:20). The Antichrist will be captured, and then his physical body will be thrown into the lake of fire.
- ¹¹I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. (Dan. 7:11)***
- ²⁶But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his [Antichrist's] dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. (Dan. 7:26)***
- D. Paul described the Antichrist's defeat using the same verbs as Daniel—consume and destroy.
- ⁸The lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)***
- ¹⁹I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus]...²⁰Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet... These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him [Jesus]. (Rev. 19:19-21)***
- E. ***The rest of the beasts***: Other empires had their dominion or political authority taken away. The Antichrist's death does not end the lives of the beasts but removes their authority. The lives of people in the region of the former three beast kingdoms were prolonged for a season and a time until the judgment of nations (Mt. 25:31-46).
- F. ***Their lives were prolonged***: The demonic influence of each beast empire continued on in the one that followed it, until they all came together in the “composite beast” of the Antichrist's empire. Thus, the Antichrist's kingdom will include and incorporate the former three kingdoms.
- ²Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard [Dan. 7:6; Greece], his feet were like the feet of a bear [Dan. 7:5; Persia], and his mouth like the mouth of a lion [Dan. 7:5; Babylon]. The dragon [Satan] gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. (Rev. 13:2)***
1. The expression, extension, and completion of the former four kingdoms will come to fullness in the kingdom of the Antichrist.
 2. All four former beast kingdoms will come to fullness in the Antichrist's kingdom. This explains why the Antichrist can be from both the third and fourth beast kingdoms. Rome included the former geographic territory of the kingdom of Greece. The little horn comes from one of the four divisions of Alexander's kingdom (8:9).
 3. We may not be able to clearly identify the three ancient beast empires, but they will be expressed in the end-time fourth kingdom, which will fully incorporate the former three.
- G. A residue from the previous conquered kingdom remained in the next kingdom, but no trace will remain after the destruction of the fourth beast kingdom. The millennial reign of Christ will have no vestige of the spirit of previous kingdoms; He will completely destroy all sinful kingdoms.

VI. JESUS' HEAVENLY CORONATION AS KING OVER ALL NATIONS (DAN. 7:13-14)

- A. Jesus will be crowned as the King of kings over the earth (7:13-14). The Father's eternal plan is to give His kingdom to a man—His Son. In this verse, Daniel prophesied that Israel's Messiah would receive the leadership of the whole earth forever.
- ¹³Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion...and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13-14)*
- B. This promise is fulfilled before the nations *in part* in this age, and *in fullness* in the Millennium. IHOPKC holds to the **historic premillennial** view of the end times, with a post-tribulation rapture, and emphasizing a victorious, praying Church (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17).
- C. Jesus spoke of sitting on the glorious throne in Jerusalem that Daniel pointed to (Mt. 25:31)
- ³¹When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the throne of His glory.
³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*
- D. **Son of Man**: Daniel must have been shocked to see a human standing near the Ancient of Days. Jesus came to the Father as a man, on heavenly clouds. The preexistent One came to earth in human frailty and humility as a man among humans, to fulfill a destiny of suffering and death.
1. Jesus used this term over 65 times to describe Himself. He identified Himself as the Son of Man of Daniel 7:13-14, who sits at the right hand of God and will return on the clouds of heaven. (Mt. 16:27, 24:30, 26:64; Mk. 8:38, 13:26, 14:62; Lk. 9:26, 21:27, 22:69).
 2. Pilate represented the most powerful government on earth. He must have been perplexed to hear Jesus' peaceful response to his threats, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above." (Jn. 19:11). Jesus answered the high priest in a similar way, by pointing him to this very vision of the Son of Man: "sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Mt. 26:64).
- E. **Near to God**: Daniel saw a Man, seemingly defying what God had told Moses, that no man could see God face to face and live (v. 13). He was so near to God, yet he was in no danger.
- F. **Clouds**: Daniel saw Jesus coming with the clouds of heaven. Clouds are the transportation of heaven and appear wherever the divine is manifested, which elsewhere in Scripture describes how God has come to earth (cf. Ex. 13:21-22; 19:9, 16; 1Kgs. 8:10-11; Ps. 18:10; Isa. 19:1; Jer. 4:13; Ezek. 10:4; etc.). When Jesus spoke of His return to earth, He usually mentioned coming on the clouds; in this way, He would be seen by all the nations (Mt. 24:30; 26:64; Mk. 13:26; Lk. 21:27; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thes. 4:17; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-16; Dan. 7:13; Ps. 68:4; 104:1-3).
- ⁷He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...all the...earth will mourn. (Rev. 1:7)*
- ³⁰All the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Mt. 24:30)*

- G. Daniel saw the saints receiving authority over the nations in partnership with the Son of Man, who wants His people to rule with Him (Dan. 7:22, 25-27; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5).
²⁷*The kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:27)*
²¹*To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)*
- H. **Commissioned as King of kings:** To this Man was given dominion over all the nations on earth. All peoples, nations, and languages will serve and love Him.
¹¹*Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*
- I. **Dominion:** The end-time Church will decree that Jesus' dominion is everlasting and cannot be destroyed. The Antichrist falsely promises with pompous words that his dominion will last.
- J. Jesus' inheritance includes having the full authority over every sphere of life—power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. There are many aspects implied by each sphere. These are seven manifestations of His leadership and the response of the nations to Him. No other human being has ever possessed total authority across the earth in even one of these areas.
¹¹*I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders...
¹²saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:11-12)*
- K. The word *receive* is significant. In what sense does Jesus receive these?
1. **From the Father:** He received great favor and authority from the Father to rule the earth.
 2. **From the nations:** He receives the obedience and cooperation of His people on the earth.
 3. **From the saints and angels:** He receives this response from those in the New Jerusalem.
- L. The Father gave Jesus an unprecedented measure of favor in seven spheres of leadership over the earth. Jesus "receives" this from the Father and the response of people on the millennial earth.
¹¹*The voice of many angels...¹²saying..., "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing." (Rev. 5:11-12)*
- M. During the Millennium, Jesus will receive all the **power** (governmental authority); **riches** (money and natural resources); **wisdom** (insight and intellectual property); **strength** (physical strength, including the labor force and human resources); **glory** (praise and love); **honor** (all will esteem Him with their obedience); and **blessing** (agreement with His policies with unified cooperation).
- N. Revelation 5 describes Jesus' destiny on the earth as a man—He is fully God and fully man. Because of His obedience to death, God highly exalted Him in heaven and on earth (Phil. 2:10). His exaltation is manifest *fully* in heaven, *in part* on earth now, and *in fullness* in the Millennium.
⁹*...God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth... (Phil. 2:9-10)*