

Small Group Guide: Daniel 7 - The Vision of Four Beasts and the Son of Man



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to give wisdom and understanding as you discuss His prophetic Word, and that He would help you see Christ more clearly through this passage.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you had a dream or vision that stuck with you. What made it memorable? How did Daniel feel about his vision?

Key Takeaways

1. **Prophecy reveals God's sovereignty over history** - The four beasts represent kingdoms (Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome/future) that God already knows will rise and fall.
2. **Jesus is the divine Son of Man** - When Jesus claimed this title from Daniel 7, He was declaring His divinity and eternal kingdom.
3. **Evil will be defeated** - Despite the terrifying picture of the Antichrist, the ultimate message is Christ's victory and eternal reign.

4. **The saints will possess the kingdom** - Believers will rule and reign with Christ in His everlasting kingdom.
-

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. How does Daniel 7 connect to Daniel 2 (the statue vision)? Why is it important that we see both visions together?
2. Walk through the four beasts described in verses 1-8. What specific historical kingdoms and kings do they represent? What details helped you identify them?
3. What is the significance of the "little horn" that rises up among the ten horns? What characteristics define this figure?

Theological Reflection

4. Read verses 9-14 describing the "Ancient of Days" and the "Son of Man." What attributes of God are revealed in this throne room scene?
5. Why was it considered blasphemy when Jesus claimed the title "Son of Man" before the Sanhedrin? What was He really claiming about Himself?
6. The passage says the Antichrist "made war with the saints and prevailed over them" (v. 21). How do we reconcile this with Jesus' promise that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church"?

Personal Application

7. Daniel says "my thoughts greatly alarmed me" after this vision (v. 28). How do you typically respond to difficult or confusing passages about the end times? Do you avoid them or engage with them?
8. The sermon emphasized that "the end is really good news" despite the difficult journey. How does knowing Christ will establish an everlasting kingdom affect how you live today?
9. Paul says "do not despise prophecies" (1 Thessalonians 5:20). Why might we be tempted to ignore prophetic passages? What do we miss when we do?

Going Deeper

10. How does understanding that human kingdoms are temporary change your perspective on current world events and political powers?
 11. The vision emphasizes that "the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom" (v. 18). What does it mean practically that believers will rule and reign with Christ?
 12. How should the certainty of Christ's return and victory shape our priorities, our fears, and our hope?
-

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Study Connection Take time this week to read Revelation 13 alongside Daniel 7. Write down the connections you see between the two passages. How does John's vision build on Daniel's?

Option 2: Worship Response Meditate on the description of Christ as the Son of Man who receives "dominion and glory and a kingdom" (v. 14). Spend time in worship thanking Him that His kingdom will never end.

Option 3: Perspective Shift When you watch the news or see troubling world events this week, consciously remind yourself that God is sovereign over all earthly kingdoms and Christ will ultimately reign. Journal about how this changes your emotional response.

Option 4: Share Hope Have a conversation with someone about what gives you hope for the future. Use this as an opportunity to share about Christ's promised return and eternal kingdom.

Memory Verse

Daniel 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of Man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And 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, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Closing Reflection

The pastor concluded by reminding us that "the best things often are difficult to get to." The journey through tribulation leads to the greatest thing - the millennial reign of Christ and ultimately the eternal state where we'll be with Him forever in perfection.

Final Question: Are you on the right side of that coin? Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of Man who will reign forever?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thanking God for His sovereignty over all history
 - Praising Jesus as the divine Son of Man
 - Asking for wisdom to understand His Word
 - Praying for those who don't yet know Christ
 - Requesting grace to live in light of His return
-

For Next Week

Read Daniel 8 in preparation for your next gathering. Note any questions or observations you have about the vision Daniel receives.

5-Day Devotional: The Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken



Day 1: The Ancient of Days Reigns

Reading: Daniel 7:9-14

Devotional: In the midst of Daniel's terrifying vision of beasts and kingdoms, he sees something that changes everything: the Ancient of Days taking His seat. The throne room of God blazes with holy fire, thousands upon thousands serve Him, and the books are opened. This is not a distant, disinterested deity but the sovereign Judge who sees all and rules all.

When life feels chaotic and evil seems to prevail, remember this vision. God is not absent. He sits enthroned, and every earthly power will answer to Him. The Son of Man receives an everlasting kingdom that will never pass away. Whatever turmoil you face today, the Ancient of Days has not abdicated His throne. His kingdom is secure, and if you belong to Christ, so is your future. Take comfort: your King reigns, and His dominion is forever.

Day 2: Jesus the Son of Man

Reading: Matthew 26:57-68

Devotional: When Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin and declared, "You will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven," He was claiming the identity revealed in Daniel 7. The religious leaders understood exactly what He meant—this was a claim to divinity, to receiving worship, glory, and an everlasting kingdom.

Jesus did not come merely as a good teacher or moral example. He came as the divine Son of Man who would receive all authority in heaven and on earth. The same Jesus who stood humbly before His accusers is the one who will return in glory with thousands of His saints. This should transform how you approach Him today. He is not just your friend; He is your King. Worship Him not only for what He has done but for who He is—the Ancient of Days in human flesh, worthy of all honor and praise.

Reading: Revelation 5:9-10; Jude 14-15

Devotional: Daniel's vision reveals an astonishing truth: the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever. This is not a passive inheritance but an active reign with Christ. You are not merely saved from something; you are saved for something—to rule and reign with Jesus.

This future reality should reshape your present perspective. You are not a victim of circumstances but a future ruler in God's eternal kingdom. The trials you face now are temporary, but your position in Christ's kingdom is permanent. Let this truth embolden your faith today. When you feel powerless or insignificant, remember that God is preparing you to reign with Him. Live today as one who will possess the kingdom forever. Let that dignity and destiny influence how you face challenges, make decisions, and treat others who will share eternity with you.

Day 4: Holding Fast Through Tribulation

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Devotional: Daniel was deeply troubled by his vision, yet he kept the matter in his heart. He did not understand everything, but he held onto what God had revealed. Paul echoes this wisdom: do not despise prophecies, but test everything and hold fast to what is good.

You do not need to understand every detail of God's plan to trust His heart. Some aspects of Scripture remain mysterious, and that is okay. What matters is holding fast to the central truth: Christ wins, His kingdom endures, and His people will reign with Him. When prophetic passages confuse or alarm you, return to the core message. God is sovereign, Jesus is returning, and your future is secure in Him. Let this anchor your soul when circumstances shake you. Hold fast to what is good—the promise of Christ's return and the eternal kingdom awaiting all who belong to Him.

Day 5: Living Between the Visions

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Devotional: Daniel lived between vision and fulfillment, seeing what would come but not experiencing it in his lifetime. We live in a similar tension—between Christ's first coming and His return. We know the end of the story, but we walk through the middle chapters where suffering and hope coexist.

Paul reminds us that present sufferings cannot compare to the glory that will be revealed. Creation groans, we groan, but we wait with hope because we know what is coming. The millennial reign, the eternal state, the perfection of all things—these are not wishful thinking but guaranteed realities purchased by Christ's blood. Today, let this hope sustain you. The difficulties you face are real, but they are temporary. The glory that awaits is eternal. Live today with one foot in heaven, remembering that you are citizens of an everlasting kingdom. Let that identity shape your priorities, your responses to hardship, and your witness to a world that desperately needs this hope.