

I. Intro

A. Series Overview: **Dan. 7:13-14**

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ 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. (Dan. 7:13-14)

B. Daniel is written as a Carefully Constructed Chiasm.

1. Chiasm is a literary technique that in itself tells a story.
 - a. Main Point is placed in the center of the chiasm.
 - i. Both the thesis and the conclusion of the matter are in the middle.
 - ii. On both sides (of the center) are supporting points that mirror one another.
 - b. At the center of Book of Daniel (written as a chiasm)... is Chapter 7 (which itself is a chiasm).

C. Teaching Order:

1. **Dream/Vision → Interpretation → The Courtroom
Display of Power (Son of Man)**

II. **The Dream/Vision (Dan. 7:1-8)**

¹In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ² Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four

winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³ And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. (**Dan. 7:1-3**)

A. Generalities

1. Winds of the heavens could represent God's power to stir up the affairs of the earth.
2. The Vision of **Ch. 7** is direct repeat of the dream of **Ch. 2**.
 - a. **Ch. 2**: God stirred up a pagan king (Nebuchadnezzar) to dream and Daniel interpreted.
 - b. **Ch. 7**: God stirred up his faithful servant Daniel, and an angel interpreted.
 - c. **Ch. 2**: Statue

B. **Ch. 7** Characters

1. The Lion (**Dan. 7:4**)

⁴ The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

2. The Bear (**Dan. 7:5**)

⁵ And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

3. The Leopard (**Dan. 7:6**)

⁶ After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

4. A Terrifying Beast (**Dan. 7:7-8**)

⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

a. Little Horn (v. 8)

⁸ I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

III. Interpretation/Description (Dan. 7:15-26)

¹⁵ “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷ ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. (Dan. 7:15-18)

A. Four Beasts are 4 Kings that shall rise up and subdue the earth.

1. Four Beasts Photo (Repeat)

B. Fascination with the 4th Beast

*¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was **different** from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, (Dan. 7:19)*

1. This beast was different than all the others.

a. All the other kingdoms had a definite ending, to be succeeded by another temporary kingdom more wicked than itself.

b. This kingdom, the Roman Empire, seemed to go beyond the strength, length and treachery of the other kingdoms.

2. This 4th Kingdom seemed to have an extension of its character/nature that will outlive the Roman Empire of history.

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- a. Will one day be a world power that includes 10 kings within itself.

²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. (Dan. 7:20)

- 3. A peculiar horn will rise to prominence
 - a. This horn will pluck out 3 other horns (v.8).
 - b. This horn is a man who will speak pompous words.
 - i. Exalt himself with great words (as if he were God Himself).
- 4. This peculiar horn will make war with the saints.

²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, (Dan. 7:21)

- 5. Horn will wage war and will be overwhelmingly winning the war.

²³ “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. ²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (Dan. 7:23-25)

- a. Devour the whole earth. (v. 23)
- b. Dominance and dominion is limited (v. 25)
 - i. Time = 1 Year
 - ii. Times = 2 Years
 - iii. Half a Time = ½ Year

** The little horn's dominance over the saints will be allowed and tolerated for 3 ½ years.*

- c. Times of pressure and persecution (Tribulation) will actually last for 7 years (**9:27**)
- 6. **Pre-Trib. Consideration**: The Rapture will take place before the 7 year tribulation period takes place.
 - a. The church will be removed prior to these 7 years
 - b. All that will remain are those who reject Jesus.
 - c. The only hope for those “Left Behind” is to accept Jesus’ Lordship under an extreme persecution that all other saints escape.
 - d. The majority view of the North American church, but the minority view in the rest of the world.
 - e. Largely formulated in 1827 by John Darby
- 7. But that horn will have his day in court. (**Dan. 7:26**)

²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. (Dan. 7:26)

- a. Reference to **Rev. 19:17-21, Dan. 7:9-15.**

IV. Courtroom Display of Power (**Dan. 7:9-14**)

A. In this chiasmic book (Daniel) is a little chiasm (**Ch. 7**) that serves as a picture of God’s plan all the way from Babylon (8th Century B.C.) until the second coming of Christ.

- 1. At the center of it all is this plan (which has proven to be 100% prophetically accurate)... is this mysterious scene that seems to introduce this mysterious Person: The Son of Man.

⁹ “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was

fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. (Dan. 7:9-10)

B. Ancient of Days: Takes his seat on the throne.

1. The court was called into session. (**v. 10b**)
 - a. Books were opened (for judgment).
2. While the court was called into session, this “Horn” was still speaking great swelling words, and was utterly destroyed.

¹¹ *“I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. (Dan. 7:11)*

- a. The rest of the beasts were stripped of their power.

¹² *As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (Dan. 7:12)*

C. Son of Man: Receives all Power

¹³ *“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. ¹⁴ 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. (Dan. 7:13-14)*

1. One who looks like a man (**v. 13a**)
 - a. Boldly approached the throne (**v. 13b**)
2. Given all dominion, glory and a kingdom. (**v. 14a**)
 - a. All peoples, nations, languages will serve him. (**v. 14b**)
 - b. His kingdom will crush all rivals.
 - c. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.
3. This Son of Man shares the throne with the Ancient of Days.
 - a. Hundreds of millions serve the Ancient of Days.
 - b. The same to the Son of Man.

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4. The Son of Man shares deity with the Ancient of Days.
 - a. The Ancient of Days is called the Most High.
 - b. The Son of Man is also referred to as the Most High (**v. 25**)

**There is only one Most High (One God), but existing eternally as different Persons.*

V. Conclusion

- A. Daniel 7 clearly details that things on the earth are going to increasingly get worse, before they get any better.
 1. Human kingdoms (under demonic influence) will devour, break in pieces, and trample the earth.
 2. All power is going to be centralized in the hands of a few kings (especially one specific king who exalts himself as god).
 3. This king (horn) will make war with the saints and prevail. (**v. 21**)
 - a. The saints will be given into the hand of this human kingdom for 3 ½ years. (**v. 25**)
 - i. Time, times and ½ time.
 - b. Persecuted and cast down, yet not destroyed.
- B. The Kingdoms of the earth will appear to be winning... Until the Most High steps in and takes what rightfully belongs to Him only.
 1. The Son of Man will crush all rival kingdoms and receive all power, dominion and glory.
 - a. He is the center of the story.
 - b. He is the object of all attention and affection.
 - c. He alone is worthy to receive all power, dominion and glory.
 2. What is striking is that all power, dominion and glory will be given to a man.

** It's shocking enough that this everlasting kingdom will be delivered to a man. But what He does with that dominion/authority is even more shocking (almost offensive).*

3. The Son of Man delivers the Kingdom to his saints.
 - a. **Dan. 7:18-19:** ¹⁷ 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'
 - b. **Dan. 7:21-22:** ²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
 - c. **Dan. 7:25-27:** ²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. ²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

C. Rapture Ideology

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

1. When a Roman general conquered a city, he wasn't simply conquering it.
 - a. Many inside of that city were happy to welcome new rule.