

Daniel Lesson 7 Lecture

Daniel 7 and 8

The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. Genesis 6:5

Note: Daniel chapters 7 and 8 belong chronologically between Daniel chapters 4 and 5.

- Beginning with Daniel 7, we are deep in apocalyptic literature. Let's remind ourselves of Tremper Longman's guidelines regarding apocalyptic literature:
 - "Be reserved. That is, we must exercise caution in our interpretation of these highly metaphoric visions."
 - The literature uses images which communicate truth but not with precision.
 - Numbers are symbolic.
 - Understand the Scripture in its original setting.
- If we could write a few summary sentences about Chapters 7 and 8, we would state:
 - God reigns as king in heaven and on earth.
 - There may be formidable opposition to God's rule, but he is always in control.
 - Those allied with God will triumph in the end, when God triumphs over history.
- Daniel 7 opens in the year 552/551 BC, over 50 years since Daniel's exile to Babylon. Daniel has a dream with visions so intense that he took time to record them for posterity. Much like Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel Chapter 2, this was no ordinary dream.
- The vision opens with "the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea." Zechariah 2:6 also uses the phrase "the four winds of heaven." In both passages, the phrase symbolizes the 4 directions of a compass (north, south, east, and west) and thus, symbolizes the whole earth.
- To Hebrews, the sea was seen as mysterious, dangerous, and restless. Isaiah compared the nations of the world to the sea:

- Woe to the many nations that rage —they rage like the raging sea! Woe to the peoples who roar —they roar like the roaring of great waters! ¹³ Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters, when he rebukes them they flee far away. (Isaiah 17:12-13)
- Like Isaiah, the Psalmist wrote that God’s power could tame the sea:
 - He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. (Psalm 107:29)
- The beasts (the nations) of Daniel’s vision come out of the sea. These are terrible hybrid beasts, much like the mythical dragon Daniel would have seen on the walls of the Ishtar Gate in Babylon.
- The first hybrid beast is a lion with wings. In Jeremiah 49, both the lion and the eagle are used to describe King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Plucking off the wings and giving the beast the mind of a human is somewhat the reverse of Daniel Chapter 4, where the proud Nebuchadnezzar loses his mind for 7 years until he acknowledges God’s sovereignty.
- The second beast, a bear, is formidable and is raised up on one side, ready to pounce on its prey. The remains of its last meal are still in his teeth. The Syrian brown bear weighs up to 550 pounds. 2 such bears are mentioned in 2 Kings 2:24; they mauled 42 boys who had been taunting the prophet Elisha.
- The third beast is a hybrid beast– a leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads. Leopards are known for their speed and stalking attacks. The 4 wings may signify this swift movement and the 4 heads can signify that it is looking in all directions for prey. Notice the language in Daniel 7:6, “it was given authority to rule.” This tells us this beast achieved its domination from a higher power, not by its own abilities.
- We do not know what type of animal represents the fourth beast. Using Daniel 7: 7-8 and 19-20, we get this composite description:
 - Terrifying, frightening, powerful
 - Iron teeth which crushed and devoured its victims.
 - Bronze claws which trampled the remains underfoot.
 - 10 Horns
 - A little horn with human eyes and mouth which uprooted 3 of the 10 horns.

- The little horn with human eyes and mouth which spoke boastfully suggests a human ruler.
- So we turn next to the interpretation of the four beasts which is given to Daniel by a member of the multitude who attended the Ancient of Days (God) in his heavenly court. The member of the multitude has been variously interpreted to mean an angel or a member of the holy hosts attending God.
 - The 4 beasts are 4 kings which will arrive from the earth (Daniel 7:17). Later, in Daniel 7:23, the explainer uses the word kingdom in association with the 4 beasts. A kingdom needs a king.
 - The 4th beast spreads over the whole earth, trampling it and crushing it. 10 kings (horns) will come from this kingdom. An 11th king (horn) will arise and subdue 3 of the 10 kings.
 - The 11th king will speak against God, oppress God's holy people, change the sacred times for religious festivals, and establish different moral laws.
 - God's people will be delivered into this king's hands (persecuted) "for a time, times, and half a time." Most scholars interpret this period to be "a year, two years, and half a year."
 - Eventually, God will judge this king ("the court will sit" of Daniel 7:26). His power will be taken away and he will be completely destroyed. Referring back to Daniel 7:11, the 4th beast (kingdom) is destroyed in total, which includes the 11th king and whatever remains of the 10 kings.
 - Note Daniel 7:12: "The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time." This suggests that the first 3 kingdoms continued to have a recognizable identity.
 - The son of man is given authority and power over all nations and peoples of every language. He has everlasting dominion over a kingdom which will never be destroyed.
- Daniel Chapter 8 takes place 2 years after Daniel 7, in 550/549 BC.
- In this vision, Daniel sees himself beside the Ulai Canal in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam. Susa was an ancient city and would later become the winter residence of the Persian kings. Daniel's location in this vision suggests a location which was outside of Babylonia proper and would be near the center of the next empire (Persia).

- In Daniel 8, the beasts he sees are not as fantastical as Daniel 7.
 - The first beast is a ram with 2 long horns, one of which grew longer over time. This ram has great military success in 3 directions: west, north, and south.
 - The second beast is a goat with a prominent horn between its eyes. It arrives from the west, striking the ram, shattering its 2 horns, and trampling on it.
 - At the height of the goat's power, its prominent horn was broken off, to be replaced by 4 horns growing in the 4 compass directions.
 - Out of 1 of the 4 horns came a smaller horn which grew in power, even doing battle with God's heavenly army and daring to declare itself as the commander of God's army. The horn eliminated the Temple sacrifices, desecrated the Temple, and worked to destroy God's truth.
 - Daniel was told that 2300 evenings and mornings would pass before God's sanctuary would be reconsecrated.

- Continuing in Daniel 8, Daniel hears God telling the angel Gabriel to explain Daniel's vision.
 - The 2 horned ram represents the kings of Media and Persia. The longer of the 2 horns represents the supremacy of Persia over the Medes.
 - The goat represents the kingdom of Greece, with its first king. The four horns which replace the prominent horn on the goat are 4 lesser kingdoms which emerge from the Grecian kingdom.
 - In the latter part of the reign of the 4 kings, a king of intrigue will arise. He will rise to great power and destroy many of God's holy people. Deceit, instead of the Truth, will prosper and he will consider himself superior to many. He will take a stand against God, but will eventually be destroyed, but not by any human power.
 - Daniel was told that the vision of the 2300 evenings and mornings was true, but he was to seal up the vision (that is, keep it secret) for it concerned the distant future.

- This chart from the ESV Bible provides the composite traditional view of Daniel's visions. We can overlay Daniel 7 and 8 with Daniel 2 and summarize the 3 chapters in the following way:
 - The first beast of Daniel 7 (a lion with wings) is the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 2. This is Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon.
 - The bear of Daniel 7 is the chest and arms of silver in Daniel 2. In the Roman view, this is associated with the Medo-Persians. The raised side of the bear may signify the Persian empire overtaking the smaller empire of the Medes. In Daniel 8, the first beast is the ram with 2 horns, one which grows longer over time. Again, the longer horn signifies the Persians overtaking the Medes. When you look at the path of the Medo-Persian empire, you see that its territory was west, north and south, corresponding to the ram's 3 charging directions. The 3 ribs in the bear's mouth may represent the principal conquests of Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.
 - The leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads of Daniel 7 is the trunk and thighs of bronze of Daniel 2. In the Roman view, this is associated with the Greek empire. In Daniel 8, the second beast is a goat with a prominent horn. The goat is the Greek empire, led by Alexander the Great. After his death in 323 BC, his empire was divided among 4 of his generals and none rose to as much prominence or had as much power as Alexander the Great.
 - The 4th beast of Daniel 7 (a terrifying beast with iron teeth and bronze claws) corresponds with the legs or iron and feet of iron and clay in the statute of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 2. In the Roman view, this beast is associated with Rome. After Rome began conquering more and more kingdoms, it found it difficult to control all of them, hence the mixture of iron and clay.
 - Certainly the Roman Empire has long ceased to exist. It did not get thrown into the fire per Daniel 7:11b. A future entity like the Roman Empire will rise in the last days and we will discuss that further in a few minutes.
 - The world is held captive to human kingdoms, which are often evil and cruel.
 - However, God is always in control of history. He will ultimately judge evildoers and establish his kingdom. The stone uncut by human hands which destroys the statute (kingdoms) of Daniel 2 and the Son of Man with ultimate authority of Daniel 7 represent this overlay.

- How should we interpret the little horn of Daniel 7 and the little horn of Daniel 8?
 - Many scholars have tried to interpret the little horn of Daniel 7 to be Antiochus IV Epiphanes who was a Greek Hellenistic King who ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC to 164 BC. We will speak more about him in a moment.
 - Try as they might, scholars cannot reconcile the text of Daniel 7 with Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Immediately after the little horn is destroyed in Daniel 7:26, the everlasting kingdom of God comes in. We know from history that this has not taken place.
 - Further complications arise when one attempts to connect the dots of 10 horns (10 kings) with kings arising from the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire postdates the Greek Empire which gave rise to the Greek Seleucid Empire (63 BC for the Roman capture of Jerusalem; 312 BC for Seleucus I). So, the little horn which subdues 3 of the 10 kings cannot be Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
 - Keeping in mind our introductory comments on apocalyptic literature, remember that numbers are symbolic, and images communicate truth without precision.
 - Therefore, most scholars have moved to the position that the little horn of Daniel 7 represents the Antichrist. Later Scripture supports this position. The little horn will be engaged in a cosmic struggle. At the conclusion of “a time, times, and half a time”, God will intervene, judgment will take place, the little horn will be destroyed forever, and God’s kingdom on earth inaugurated.
 - Without devolving into a detailed study of the book of Ephesians and Revelation, here are a few passages to consider:
 - Ephesians 6:11-12: Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
 - Revelation 12:7-9: Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or

Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- Revelation 13:1-8: The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. **And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.** ² **The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.** The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. ³ One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. ⁴ People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” ⁵ **The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.** ⁶ It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷ It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸ All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.
- Revelation 19: 11-16: I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Revelation 19:19-20: Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

- This leaves us with the little horn of Daniel 8 and most scholars do associate him with Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
 - After Alexander the Great’s death, his large empire (which stretched from Greece to Turkey to Egypt to India) was divided among his generals: Seleucus in Babylon, Ptolemy in Egypt, Antigonus in Israel and Turkey, and Lysimachus and Cassander in Greece. Under Seleucus I, Antigonus lost control of his territory to the Seleucids.
 - Antiochus IV’s original name was Mithradates, but he took the name Antiochus IV Epiphanes when he assumed the throne in 175 BC. Epiphanes means “God Manifest.”
 - Much of what we know about Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Seleucid king, is recorded in the book of 1 Maccabees, a book of the Intertestamental Period. It is part of the Biblical Apocrypha in Roman Catholic Bibles but is excluded from Protestant Bibles.
 - Here are some excerpts from 1 Maccabees which speak of the atrocities committed by Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
 - 1 Maccabees 21-23: He insolently entered the sanctuary* and took away the golden altar, the lampstand for the light with all its utensils, the offering table, the cups and bowls, the golden censers, and the curtain. The cornices and the golden ornament on the facade of the temple—he stripped it all off. And he took away the silver and gold and the precious vessels; he also took all the hidden treasures he could find.
 - 1 Maccabees 41-50: Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, and abandon their particular customs. All the Gentiles conformed to the command of the king, and many Israelites delighted in his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the sabbath. The king sent letters by messenger to Jerusalem and to the cities of Judah, ordering them to follow customs foreign to their land; to prohibit burnt offerings, sacrifices, and libations in the sanctuary, to profane the sabbaths and feast days, to desecrate the sanctuary and the sacred ministers, to build pagan altars and temples and shrines, to sacrifice swine and unclean animals, to leave their sons uncircumcised, and to defile themselves with every kind of impurity and abomination; so that they might forget the law and change all its ordinances. Whoever refused to act according to the command of the king was to be put to death.

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The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. Genesis 6:5

Note: Daniel chapters 7 and 8 belong chronologically between Daniel chapters 4 and 5.

1. Read Daniel 7: 1-8.
 - a. Who is ruling Babylon?
 - b. Who has the dream in this chapter and when does it take place?
 - c. Describe the first beast and what happens to it.
 - d. Read Jeremiah 49:19-22 and review Daniel 4. From these passages and Daniel's description of the first beast, who is the first beast?
 - e. Describe the second beast and what it was instructed to do.
 - f. Describe the third beast and its power.

g. Describe the fourth beast and what it did.

h. What does Daniel describe about the various horns?

2. From Daniel 7:9-10,

a. What is Daniel witnessing?

b. Who is “the Ancient of Days?”

c. What passages from Scripture can you recall which mention holy fire and what it signifies? (Hints: Exodus; Elijah).

d. Read Exodus 32:32, Malachi 3:16, and Revelation 20:12-15. What is the purpose of the books?

3. Read Daniel 7:11-12. What happens to the horn and the beasts?

4. Read Daniel 7: 13-14.
 - a. Who does Daniel see next?

 - b. Read Matthew 9:4-7, Matthew 16:13-16, Mark 14:60-62, and Revelation 1:7, 12-18. Who is this person?

 - c. What do Daniel 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6-7 tell us about this person's kingdom?

5. Read Daniel 7:15-28.
 - a. What impact does the dream have on Daniel?

 - b. Who does Daniel ask to interpret his dream?

 - c. From verses 17-18, what was the interpretation?

- d. What was unique about the fourth beast and its actions?

 - e. What is the interpretation of the 10 horns and the little horn?

 - f. What does the little horn do to God's people?

 - g. What finally happens to the fourth beast?

 - h. Who will rule at the end and for how long?
6. Daniel 7:1 tells us that Daniel wrote down this dream. From the balance of this chapter, we also see that he wrote down the dream's interpretation. Why did he record this and what does this tell you about God?
7. Read Daniel 8:1-14.
- a. Who is ruling and when?

 - b. Where was Daniel in this vision?

- c. How does Daniel describe the ram and its actions?

- d. How does Daniel describe the goat and its actions?

- e. Describe the horn and what it did.

- f. From Daniel 8:9 and Ezekiel 20:5-6, what do you think “the glorious land” or “the beautiful land” refers to?

- g. To what does the sanctuary refer?

- h. What happens to the daily sacrifice?

- i. What does the horn try to do to the truth? Whose truth is this?

- j. What is the conversation of the holy ones?

- k. Verse 14 translates to “evening, morning – two thousand three hundred.” Use Genesis 1 and Exodus 28:38-41 to write down 2 possible interpretations of the amount of time suggested by this verse.

8. According to Daniel 8:15-25,
- a. Who is instructed to interpret Daniel's vision?
 - b. From Daniel 9:20-23, Luke 1:11-19, and Luke 1:26-37, what was this person's role on earth?
 - c. What was Daniel's reaction?
 - d. What does the vision concern?
 - e. What does the ram represent?
 - f. What does the goat represent?
 - g. What do the horns represent?
 - h. Describe the bold king and his actions.

- i. How do Daniel 10:20 and Daniel 12:1 clarify who is “the Prince of princes” from verse 25?

 - j. How will this bold king be destroyed?
9. From Daniel 8:26-27,
- a. What does Gabriel say about the vision of the evenings and the mornings? Why does he say this to Daniel?

 - b. What is Daniel instructed to do about this vision? Why?

 - c. What was Daniel’s reaction to the vision’s interpretation?

 - d. Why do you think Daniel reacted this way?

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The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. Genesis 6:5

Note: Daniel chapters 7 and 8 belong chronologically between Daniel chapters 4 and 5.

1. Read Daniel 7: 1-8.

- a. Who is ruling Babylon?

Belshazzar.

- b. Who has the dream in this chapter and when does it take place?

Daniel has the dream in the first year of Belshazzar's rule.

- c. Describe the first beast and what happens to it.

The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it. Daniel 7:4

- d. Read Jeremiah 49:19-22 and review Daniel 4. From these passages and Daniel's description of the first beast, who is the first beast?

Like a lion coming up from Jordan's thickets to a rich pastureland, I will chase Edom from its land in an instant. Jeremiah 49:19

Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down, spreading its wings over Bozrah. Jeremiah 49:22

The first beast represents Babylon. The wings being torn off represents the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar during his 7-year period of insanity.

- e. Describe the second beast and what it was instructed to do.

And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh! Daniel 7:5

- f. Describe the third beast and its power.

After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and **it was given authority to rule.** Daniel 7:6

- g. Describe the fourth beast and what it did.

After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; **it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left.** Daniel 7:7

- h. What does Daniel describe about the various horns?

It was different from all the former beasts, and **it had ten horns.**

⁸ “While I was thinking about the horns, **there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.** Daniel 7:7-8

2. From Daniel 7:9-10,

- a. What is Daniel witnessing?

Daniel is witnessing a heavenly courtroom with God’s throne and his heavenly attendants.

- b. Who is “the Ancient of Days?”

God.

- c. What passages from Scripture can you recall which mention holy fire and what it signifies? (Hints: Exodus; Elijah).

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Exodus 13:21

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. 1 Kings 18:38

Holy fire signifies God or God’s power.

- d. Read Exodus 32:32, Malachi 3:16, and Revelation 20:12-15. What is the purpose of the books?

But now, please forgive their sin —but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written. Exodus 32:32

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. Malachi 3:16

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:12-15

One book records all the deeds of man, good or bad. The book of life records the names of believers and God's faithful followers, such as Abraham. (See also Hebrews 11.)

3. Read Daniel 7:11-12. What happens to the horn and the beasts?

Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. ¹² (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) Daniel 7:11-12

4. Read Daniel 7: 13-14.

- a. Who does Daniel see next?

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 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 Daniel 7:13-14

- b. Read Matthew 9:4-7, Matthew 16:13-16, Mark 14:60-62, and Revelation 1:7, 12-18. Who is this person?

But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Matthew 9:6

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14:62

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” Revelation 1:7

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Revelation 1:12-16

The Son of Man is Jesus Christ.

- c. What do Daniel 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6-7 tell us about this person’s kingdom? His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and **his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.** Daniel 7:14

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.** Isaiah 9:6-7

5. Read Daniel 7:15-28.

- a. What impact does the dream have on Daniel?
I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. Daniel 7:15
- b. Who does Daniel ask to interpret his dream?
I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this. Daniel 7:16; a member of the heavenly court.
- c. From verses 17-18, what was the interpretation?
So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷ ‘The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever. Daniel 7:16-18

- d. What was unique about the fourth beast and its actions?

Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. Daniel 7:19

- e. What is the interpretation of the 10 horns and the little horn?

I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.²¹ As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them,²² until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:20-22

The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.²⁴ The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. Daniel 7:23-24

- f. What does the little horn do to God's people?

As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, Daniel 7:21

After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.²⁵ He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time. Daniel 7:24-25

- g. What finally happens to the fourth beast?

But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him. Daniel 7:26-27

The 4th beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

- h. Who will rule at the end and for how long?

God's kingdom will be everlasting. Jesus will rule the everlasting kingdom forever. (See Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:21, Colossians 2:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 15:25-28.)

6. Daniel 7:1 tells us that Daniel wrote down this dream. From the balance of this chapter, we also see that he wrote down the dream's interpretation. Why did he record this and what does this tell you about God?

Daniel wanted everyone to know that this was no ordinary dream. Daniel recorded this dream and its interpretation for future generations. He wanted them to understand God's sovereignty over history. He also wanted future generations to understand that the Son of Man would ultimately rule an eternal kingdom; all earthly rulers would bow down to him.

This chapter shows us God's sovereignty and his divine plan for humanity.

7. Read Daniel 8:1-14.

- a. Who is ruling and when?

Belshazzar is in the 3rd year of his reign.

- b. Where was Daniel in this vision?

In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. Daniel 8:2

- c. How does Daniel describe the ram and its actions?

I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. ⁴ I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great. Daniel 8:3-4

- d. How does Daniel describe the goat and its actions?

As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between its eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. ⁶ It came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at it in great rage. ⁷ I saw it attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering its two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against it; the goat knocked it to the ground and trampled on it, and none could rescue the ram from its power. Daniel 8:5-7

- e. Describe the horn and what it did.

The goat became very great, but at the height of its power the large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.

⁹ Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. ¹⁰ It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. ¹¹ It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the LORD; it took away the daily sacrifice from the LORD, and his sanctuary was thrown down. ¹² Because of rebellion, the LORD's people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground. Daniel 8:8-12

- f. From Daniel 8:9 and Ezekiel 20:5-6, what do you think “the glorious land” or “the beautiful land” refers to?

and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I chose Israel, I swore with uplifted hand to the descendants of Jacob and revealed myself to them in Egypt. With uplifted hand I said to them, “I am the LORD your God.”’ ⁶ On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of Egypt into a land I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands. Ezekiel 20:5-6

The glorious land/beautiful land refers to the Promised Land, Israel.

- g. To what does the sanctuary refer?

The Temple in Jerusalem

- h. What happens to the daily sacrifice?

The daily sacrifice was taken away (prohibited/stopped).

- i. What does the horn try to do to the truth? Whose truth is this?

Truth (God's truth) was thrown to the ground and trampled on.

- j. What is the conversation of the holy ones?

Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the trampling underfoot of the LORD's people?” ¹⁴ He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.” Daniel 8:13-14

- k. Verse 14 translates to “evening, morning – two thousand three hundred.” Use Genesis 1 and Exodus 28:38-41 to write down 2 possible interpretations of the amount of time suggested by this verse.

In Genesis 1, evening and morning constitute 1 day. With this interpretation, “evening, morning – two thousand three hundred” would be 2,300 days (76.7 months or 6.3 years).

In Exodus, one morning sacrifice and one evening sacrifice were made each day. With this interpretation, “evening, morning – two thousand three hundred” would be 1,150 days (38.3 months or 3.15 years.)

8. According to Daniel 8:15-25,

- a. Who is instructed to interpret Daniel’s vision?

While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. ¹⁶ And I heard a man’s voice from the Ulai calling, “**Gabriel**, tell this man the meaning of the vision.” Daniel 8:15-16

- b. From Daniel 9:20-23, Luke 1:11-19, and Luke 1:26-37, what was this person’s role on earth?

while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. ²² He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. Daniel 9:21-22

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Luke 1:11-13

The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. Luke 1:19

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:26-31

Gabriel’s role on earth was to be a messenger from God.

- c. What was Daniel's reaction?

As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate.
Daniel 8:17

While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground.
Daniel 8:18

- d. What does the vision concern?

The vision concerns the end of time.

- e. What does the ram represent?

The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.
Daniel 8:20

- f. What does the goat represent?

The shaggy goat is the king of Greece Daniel 8:21

- g. What do the horns represent?

The large horn between its eyes is the first king.²² The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. Daniel 8:21-22

- h. Describe the bold king and his actions.

In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise.²⁴ He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people.²⁵ He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes.
Daniel 8:23-25

- i. How do Daniel 10:20 and Daniel 12:1 clarify who is "the Prince of princes" from verse 25?

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come Daniel 10:20

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. Daniel 12:1

This is a reference to God.

- j. How will this bold king be destroyed?
He will be destroyed, but not by human power.

9. From Daniel 8:26-27,

- a. What does Gabriel say about the vision of the evenings and the mornings? Why does he say this to Daniel?

This vision is true. He wants Daniel to understand that this portion of the vision, along with the visions about the coming kingdoms, is all true and comes from God.

- b. What is Daniel instructed to do about this vision? Why?

Daniel is instructed to seal up (keep secret) the vision because it concerns the distant future. There is no need to share the interpretation of this part of the vision with anyone. It will remain sealed until the time to share it is right.

- c. What was Daniel's reaction to the vision's interpretation?

I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding. Daniel 8:27

- d. Why do you think Daniel reacted this way?

At this juncture, Babylon was still a major power in the Middle East. Accepting that Media and Persia would conquer Babylon was difficult to imagine. Harder to imagine would be a major kingdom arising from the country of Greece. The final king, the master of intrigue, who would destroy many of God's people was hard to fathom.

Daniel 7 - 8

Daniel 7-8: Apocalyptic Literature

- Apocalyptic Literature Predicts the End of the World
- Tremper Longman III Regarding Apocalyptic Literature:
 - Exercise Caution With These Highly Metaphoric Visions
 - The Images Communicate Truth, But Not With Precision
 - The Numbers are Symbolic
 - Understand the Scripture in its Original Setting

Summarizing Daniel 7 and 8

- God Reigns as King in Heaven and On Earth
- There May be Formidable Opposition to God's Rule, But He Is Always in Control
- Those Allied With God Will Triumph in the End, When God Triumphs Over History

Daniel 7

- 552/551 BC, Over 50 Years Since Daniel's Exile to Babylon
- This Was No Ordinary Dream; Daniel Records It
- "The Four Winds of Heaven Churning Up the Great Sea"
 - Zechariah 2:6
 - Symbolizes the 4 Directions of A Compass and Thus, The Whole Earth
 - The Sea Was Mysterious, Dangerous, and Restless
 - Isaiah 17:12-13; Psalm 107:29
- The Terrible Hybrid Beasts Come Out of the Sea; Much Like the Mythical Dragon on the Babylon Processional Way



Mythological Dragons
from Babylon Procession
Way from the Marduk
Temple to the Ishtar
Gate; Copyright: Archaeology
Museum, Istanbul, Turkiye; Photo
by lostinafrica, 2007



The Statue from Daniel 2 and the Beasts From Daniel 7

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Daniel 7 Beasts

- The First Hybrid Beast is a Lion With Wings
 - In Jeremiah 49, the Lion and Eagle Are Used to Describe King Nebuchadnezzar II
 - Plucking Off the Wings and Giving the Beast the Mind of a Human is a Reverse of Daniel 4
- The Second Beast is a Formidable Bear, Raised Up on One Side, Ready to Pounce
 - Remains of Its Last Meal in its Teeth
 - Consider the Syrian Brown Bear
 - 2 Kings 2:24

Daniel 7 Beasts

- The Third Beast is a Leopard With 4 Wings and 4 Heads
 - Leopards Known For Their Speed and Stalking Attacks
 - 4 Wings = Swift Movement; 4 Heads = Looking in All Directions for Prey
 - It Was Given Authority to Rule (Daniel 7:6); Achieved Domination From a Higher Power, Not by Its Own Abilities

Daniel 7 Beasts

- The Fourth Beast is an Unknown Animal; Daniel 7:7-8
 - Terrifying, Frightening, Powerful
 - Iron Teeth To Crush and Devour Its Victims
 - Bronze Claws to Trample Remains Underfoot
 - 10 Horns
 - A Little Horn With Human Eyes and Mouth Which Uprooted 3 of the 10 Horns
 - The Little Horn Which Spoke Boastfully Suggests a Human Ruler

Daniel 7 Beasts Interpreted

- Given to Daniel By a Member of the Multitude Who Attended the Ancient of Days (God) in His Heavenly Court; An Angel or a Holy Host
- 4 Beasts = 4 Kings/Kingdoms From the Earth
- The 4th Beast Spreads Over the Whole Earth, Trampling and Crushing It
 - 10 Kings (Horns) Will Come From This Kingdom
 - An 11th King (Horn) Will Arise And Subdue 3 of the 10 Kings
 - The 11th King Will Speak Against God, Oppress God's Holy People, Change the Sacred Times For Religious Festivals, and Establish Different Moral Laws

Daniel 7 Beasts Interpreted

- God's People Will Be Delivered Into the 11th Kings' Hands (Persecuted) "For a Time, Times, and Half a Time" (3 ½ Years)
- Eventually God Will Judge This King (Daniel 7:26)
- His Power Will Be Taken Away and He Will Be Completely Destroyed (Along With the 4th Beast and Whatever Remains of the 10 Kings); Daniel 7:11
- The Other Beasts Have Been Stripped of Their Authority But Were Allowed to Live For a Period of Time; Daniel 7:12
 - Suggests That the First 3 Kingdoms Continued to Have a Recognizable Identity
- The Son of Man is Given Ultimate Authority Over an Everlasting Kingdom

Daniel 8

- 550/549 BC
- Daniel See Himself Beside the Uлай Canal in Susa, the Province of Elam
 - Susa Was an Ancient City and Would Later Become the Winter Residence of the Persian Kings
 - The Location is Outside of Babylonia Proper and Would Be Near the Center of the Next Empire (Persia)

Daniel 8 Beasts

- Not As Fantastical as Daniel 7
- The First Beast is a Ram With 2 Long Horns, One Which Grew Longer Over Time
 - The Ram Has Great Military Success in the West, North, and South
- The Second Beast is a Goat With a Prominent Horn Between Its Eyes
 - It Arrives From the West, Striking the Ram, Shattering Its 2 Horns and Trampling On it

Daniel 8 Beasts

- At the Height of the Goat's Power, Its Prominent Horn Was Broken Off
 - Replaced by 4 Horns Growing in the 4 Compass Directions
- Out of 1 of the 4 Horns Came a Smaller Horn Which Grew in Power
- It Battled God's Heavenly Army; Even Declaring Itself as the Commander of God's Army
- It Eliminated Temple Sacrifices, Desecrated the Temple, and Worked to Destroy God's Truth
- 2300 Evenings and Mornings Would Pass Before God's Sanctuary Would Be Reconsecrated

Daniel 8 Beasts Interpreted

- God Tells Gabriel to Explain Daniel's Vision
- The 2 Horned Ram = Media and Persia; the Longer of the 2 Horns Represents Persia's Supremacy Over the Medes
- The Goat Represents Greece With Its First King; The 4 Horns are 4 Lessor Kingdoms Which Replace the Prominent Horn
- In the Latter Part of the Reign of the 4 Kings, a King of Intrigue Will Arise to Great Power
 - He Will Destroy Many of God's Holy People
 - Deceit Instead of the Truth Will Prosper
 - He Will Take a Stand Against God, But Be Destroyed, Not By Any Human Power
- The Vision of the 2300 Evenings and Mornings Was True
- Daniel Must Keep the Vision of the Future Secret

	Babylonian Empire (625-539 BC)	Medo-Persian Empire (539-331 BC)	Greek Empire (331-63 BC)	Roman Empire (63 BC – 476 AD)	Future Events
Vision of the Statue (Daniel 2)	Head of Gold (Daniel 2: 36-38)	Chest and Arms of Silver (Daniel 2: 32,39)	Belly and Thighs of Bronze (Daniel 2: 32,39)	Legs of Iron; Feet of Iron and Clay (Daniel 2: 33,40-43)	Messianic Kingdom: the stone (Daniel 2: 44-45)
Vision of the Tree (Daniel 4)	Nebuchadnezzar Humbled (Daniel 4: 19-37)				
Vision of 4 Beasts (Daniel 7)	Lion With Wings of an Eagle (Daniel 7:4)	Bear Raised Up on One Side (Daniel 7:5)	Leopard With Four Wings and Four Heads (Daniel 7:6)	Terrifying Beast With Iron Teeth and Bronze Claws (Daniel 7:7,19)	Antichrist: Little Horn Uttering Great Boasts (Daniel 7:8-11)
Vision of a Ram and a Goat (Daniel 8)		Ram With Two Horns; One Longer Than the Other (Daniel 8:2-4)	Male Goat With One Horn; It was Broken and Four Horns Came Up (Daniel 8: 5-8) Antiochus IV (Daniel 8:23-26)		

Daniel 2, 7, and 8

- The Roman Empire Has Long Ceased to Exist
 - It Did Not Get Thrown Into the Fire (Daniel 7:11b)
 - A Future Entity Like the Roman Empire Will Rise in the Last Days
- The World is Held Captive to Human Kingdoms, Which Are Often Evil and Cruel
- God is Always in Control of History; He Will Ultimately Judge Evildoers and Establish His Kingdom
 - The Stone Uncut By Human Hands (Daniel 2)
 - The Son of Man With Ultimate Authority (Daniel 7)

The Little Horn of Daniel 7

- Many Scholars Have Tried to Interpret the Little Horn of Daniel 7 as Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Greek Hellenistic King Who Ruled the Seleucid Empire 175-164 BC
- Scholars Cannot Reconcile Daniel 7 With Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- Immediately After the Little Horn is Destroyed in Daniel 7:26, the Everlasting Kingdom of God Comes In; This Has Not Taken Place
- Further Complications Arise When Trying to Connect the 10 Horns (10 Kings) With 10 Kings Arising From the Roman Empire
- The Roman Empire Postdates the Greek Empire Which Gave Rise to the Greek Seleucid Empire
- So, the Little Horn Which Subdues 3 of the 10 Kings Cannot Be Antiochus IV Epiphanes

The Little Horn of Daniel 7

- Most Scholars Have Moved to the Position That the Little Horn of Daniel 7 Represents the Antichrist; Later Scripture Supports This Position
- The Little Horn Will Be Engaged in a Cosmic Struggle
- At the Conclusion, God Will Intervene; Judgement Will Take Place; The Little Horn (King) Will Be Destroyed Forever; God's Kingdom on Earth Will Be Inaugurated
- Ephesians 6:11-12
- Revelation 12:7-9
- Revelation 13:1-8
- Revelation 19:11-16; 19-20

The Little Horn of Daniel 8

- Most Scholars Do Associate Him With Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- After Alexander the Great's Death, His Large Empire Was Divided Among His Generals:
 - Seleucus in Babylon
 - Ptolemy in Egypt
 - Antigonus in Israel and Turkey
 - Lysimachus and Cassander in Greece
- Under Seleucus I, Antigonus Lost Control of His Territory to the Seleucids

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- Antiochus IV's Original Name Was Mithradates, But He Took the Name Antiochus IV Epiphanes When He Assumed the Throne in 175 BC
- Epiphanes Means "God Manifest"
- Much of What We Know About Antiochus IV Epiphanes, A Seleucid King, is Recorded in 1 Maccabees, a Book of the Intertestamental Period
- 1 Maccabees is Part of the Roman Catholic Apocrypha But is Excluded From Protestant Bibles
- The Atrocities of Antiochus IV Epiphanes
 - 1 Maccabees 21-23; 41-50; 54-61
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes Died of Disease Around 163/164 BC, Rather Than by Human Hand



Bust of Antiochus IV
Epiphanes; Altes Museum, Berlin,
Germany; copyright:
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2300 Evenings and Mornings

- We Cannot Be Dogmatic About 2300 Evenings and Mornings
- 1150 Days of Sacrifices Would be 3 ½ Years
- The Prohibition of Temple Sacrifices Was in 168 BC
- The Jewish Maccabees Regained Control of and Reconsecrated the Temple in 165 BC (The Celebration of Hannukah)
- In Reference to the 2300 Number, Take Note of Daniel 8:27 “It Was Beyond Understanding”