

XIII. Daniel in Biblical Perspective
The Triumph of the King and His Kingdom
Daniel 7

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April 11, 2010 – Evening Sermon

This is our 13th study in the book of Daniel. Before we get started let's pray. Prayer: Father, thank You for these few moments in this Your Word. We ask God, we who have prayed, confessed, encouraged one another, and sung praise to You that You would now sing over us with Your Word and that You would use that Word in our hearts and lives that we might know You, love You and Father, live in the full confidence that our Savior, the King, the Lamb of God has triumphed. I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

As I have said on a number of occasions, prophesy is not a big deal with God. It's just God pre-writing history that's all prophesy is. It's God letting us take a look at a history book in broad terms. Prophetic language is usually in very broad terms and it is given to us to let us peel back some of what is going to take place but in prophesy there is a particular genre, a particular category of prophesy that we call apocalyptic literature. What does it mean when we use apocalyptic? It is looking toward the end times but Biblical apocalyptic literature is very specific. We have it in our Bible in the book of Revelation which is known as the Apocalypse. In the last six chapters of Daniel that we have been studying has apocalyptic literature. Daniel 7 is apocalyptic literature. The book of Zechariah has it and some of Isaiah has it. There are passages throughout the Old Testament in the prophetic books in which there is not only prophetic words but there is apocalyptic prophesy.

Have you noticed how many books, movies and plays today that is being written about the end times? All kinds of things are coming out about the end times because it is things that we want to know. God wants us to have some information about where we are going, about what's going to happen, and He wants it to be startlingly factual and clear yet it is not exhaustive. Just like Daniel He wants us to understand and Daniel will get a vision that is apocalyptic and Daniel will say, "Hey I'm troubled, can You give me some help here?" So it's absolutely fine to want to know what the apocalyptic literature is saying to us about the end times but we have to refrain from speculating about it.

I want to give you two characteristics of Biblical apocalypse whether it's Revelation or Daniel or the night visions of Zechariah. When you take a look at apocalyptic literature where things are moving into the consummation two themes are going to constantly be there. One is this seemingly unremitting and unending rebellion of Satan through the powers of this age against the Kingdom of God. There is an unremitting continual seemingly unfathomable ability of Satan to rebel against the Kingdom of God by raising up false prophets, false teachers and particularly using the kingdoms of this world to rebel in cosmic treason against the King Himself and the Kingdom of God. The second theme you will see is a constant reminder that God wins. In fact, He's already promised you the victory. He's already raised the standard of the victory and He will be victorious. Nothing that is happening or will happen is our from under His sovereign control and the assurance of victory.

This particular chapter, Daniel 7, is no different. In fact, it is there not for us to engage in undue speculation, certainly to make inquiry but to communicate to us in this

prophetic language, in these broad terms with this highly nuance symbolism, not that we try to go down too deeply into the details, but we see the scope of what He is saying and where things are headed. You'll see that both of those themes that mark out literature that is apocalyptic, that prophetic genre that is pointing to the end times, of the unremitting nature of evil and rebellion against God and all that is holy and particularly the use of the kingdoms of this world by Satan, stands paramount. It does so in this text. Secondly, there is the assurance that there is only one God and there is no God like Jehovah. And He has won the victory. The Ancient of Days is victorious through His Champion, His own Son, the Son of Man.

It's been a while since we last studied Daniel. Daniel 7 is a new section where we are getting a series of visions from Daniel. Don't try to solve everything from the first vision. There's a reason because there's a second vision. I'm not going to jump to the second vision to come back to the first vision. We're going to just do the first vision. Then we'll go to the second and then to the third. There are a series of visions that have been given to Daniel. Up until now Daniel had not received the visions. These kings have been getting visions and Daniel has been the interpreter. Now Daniel is getting these visions from God. Previously he had been giving interpretations so that he could be this influential Godly statesman in the Babylonian Empire and the Medo-Persian Empire through a series of not only two kingdoms but two kings. Daniel will be with the people of God from the time of their captivity to the time of their return. He'll spend his whole life from his teenage years all the way to the end here in Babylon and the Medo-Persian Empire. We have followed him all the way up to the end of his life in Daniel 6.

Now Daniel 7 takes us back and rewinds the tape back to Daniel in his forties or maybe fifties and he's back under Belshazzar, the king that is going to be killed. He is the king who gets the hand writing on the wall for him. Have you ever noticed how many little sayings we have in our language that come up in the book of Daniel? One phrase is 'you can see the handwriting on the wall'. So we're back to Belshazzar but we are before the feast and the party in Daniel 5. Belshazzar is second in command and he is under a man named Nabonidus. Let's start in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:1 - 2 says, *1 In 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...* So here Daniel has a dream that has so impacted him that he is now going to write it down. I'm going to walk through this chapter in three sections. The first thing I will give you is the ingredients of this vision. Number two will be the interlude of the vision and then thirdly we'll look at the implications of the vision and draw a couple of takeaways out of that.

So let's first of all take a look at the ingredients in Daniel 7:2-8. Daniel 7:2, 3 says *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.* Remember in Bible language the reference to 'river' is good and the reference to 'sea' is bad. The river of life represents the work of redemption. The sea roaring, foaming, rising up to overwhelm you is the chaos of this age, sin and rebellion against God. So out of the broken treason, rebellion against God, out of the sea comes something. What rises up from that sea?

Daniel 7:3-8 says *3 And four great beasts came up **out of the sea**, different from one another. 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. 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.' 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. 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. 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.

So out of this foaming sea it cast up four monsters. We could make our own movie here, couldn't we? There were four monsters, four beasts, and like one writer said you can almost see how it is written like today's cinematography. In our society today they throw up a visual image and it will disappear and then another one will kind of take over from it. Then that one will kind of fade and another one will take over from it. That's kind of the picture here grammatically of what's taking place. The first one that comes up is a lion. It is a lion that is also like an eagle with its wings. Then this lion all of a sudden becomes man like instead of beast like and stands up and begins to act like a man instead of a beast. Then that one is replaced by a bear. This bear is powerful and ravenous. You see the three ribs coming out from its mouth. This bear has just gobbled up and devoured much. Then that's replaced by another beast. Its primary figure is a leopard but it has four heads and four wings. Then that is followed by another beast which is different.

It's different in a number of ways. It's different because it really can't even be pictured. It doesn't say it's like something it just says it's a beast. It's so horrific and monstrous that it doesn't even qualify with a picture. It's also different when you notice something about these others. They come up out of the rebellion of the sea and against God and His Kingdom which is obvious but notice how the first is like a lion with eagle's wings. Notice the language in Daniel 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.* Its wings were plucked off. It was lifted up. It was made to stand. A mind was given to it. Then look at the bear in Daniel 7:5; *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.'* Then there's the leopard *with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it* (Daniel 7:6). Notice that these first three beasts are able to be imaged as horrendous as the image is but also notice that they are being lifted up. They are being instructed. They are being given dominion.

Who is doing that? That's the sovereign hand of God. There is no power that stands but by the hand of God even that which raises itself up against God, it is God Himself that is sovereignly allowing them. So not only the kingdoms of this world and the rulers of this age and Satan himself all belong to God. They are never allowed to do what God does not allow them to do. Oh they're doing what they're doing but they are

never allowed to go beyond what He will allow them to go. They are always circumscribed.

Now watch in this next beast from Daniel 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. 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.* This one is different because we don't even have a description for it. We have some characteristics like iron teeth, great power, unstoppable, different from the others and also the language that was there about the sovereign hand of God and what's happening with those kingdoms is purposefully absent from this one. So this one seems to have this innate power of evil that certainly God is still sovereign over but God is pointing out how this evil is now multiplying from one to the other.

The other thing you see pretty quickly is that it doesn't take a great theologian to say when you're reading this, "Boy this sure sounds familiar." If you back track over here to the visions of Nebuchadnezzar everything is kind of the same. Do you remember that image of great power and pride? The image starts off with this golden head, then there was this chest and arms of silver which is replaced by bronze waist and legs and that's replaced by iron and then iron and clay and ten toes. Now we see this one. We see this lion like an eagle. By the way we already knew what those were because we already received that interpretation. The head of gold was who? It was Nebuchadnezzar. As this image descends in value and strength but its obviously top heavy we see the top represents Babylon, then Daniel lets us know the next one is the Medo-Persian Empire in two parts and that will be replaced by the Grecian Empire headed by Alexander the Great. That will be replaced by the Roman Empire with its iron and then its ten toes but the top heavy image will go over because there will be a little stone that will come from the mountain that will grow larger and destroy that image.

It's pretty clear at least up to this point that this vision in Daniel 7 is very close to the top heavy image. Who was the head of gold? It was Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. What is this first one? It is a lion with an eagle like a beast and then after a period of time it's no longer acting like a beast. Now it's standing up acting like a man instead of a beast in the field. Does that sound familiar? And God has raised him up from that but then that is going to be replaced by an even more ferocious beast. Those three ribs tells us something had been gobbled up. We know that Assyria, Babylon and Egypt had been gobbled up and perhaps these three ribs are pointing to that but then this beast is told to 'devour much flesh' and the Medo-Persian Empire will spread much, much larger than the Babylonian Empire. Then with unbelievable rapidity the Grecian Empire with Alexander the Great will replace that one. See the leopard, see the wings and then Alexander will die at 32 years of age rapidly taking over unbelievably expanses. Then the kingdom is divided up into four parts.

So what about this next beast? It's pretty clear to me that it represents the Roman Empire but let's go further to see what the Scriptures themselves tell us about it. But before I go there you're probably wondering about the ten horns. The horns represent power, royalty and triumph and there are ten that are there. Either we're supposed to take

a look at the ten Roman Empires or we come back again to prophetic literature where numbers are highly symbolic. Instead of there being the notion of ten horns, I have to find out if they are the first ten Caesars or what they are. Perhaps the ten is the number of completion and that it is representing the rulers who will rule in the power, authority and legacy of the Roman Empire. Out of the context of that Roman Empire and its legacy empires there will rise up one with human like attributes given to that little horn that replaces three of them by plucking them up as it were, even though it is a little horn.

It says in Daniel 7:8b, *And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things (a boasting mouth)*. Here we begin to learn some things about this little horn. One it won't tolerate any rivals. Two it has the eyes of a man so it's human. Three it boasts and speaks arrogant and proud things.

Now we come to the interlude in Daniel 7:9, 10 which says **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.* In this first stanza of this particular hymn/song that is being used to give us this interlude in the part of the vision you can almost think like a movie here. Here are these beasts just rising up almost coming through the screen after you and then this last one coming up with ten horns where three are getting plucked out. What's happening to that one? It's this amazing picture and then the Ancient of Days takes its seat. You can almost feel control, authority, power, supremacy, sovereignty and then come the attendance of the angels. That's not numbering the angels for you, again that's ten times ten times ten, ten thousand times ten. It's just telling you that all the angels were there and there's a whole bunch of them all that are necessary to accomplish His work. Then see the fire, see the white hair like snow, see the purity and see the third thing which is judgment. The books are being opened. Now the bullies have been doing their work and now the God of glory sits down.

There was a very famous sermon that was preached when I was in college and I had the opportunity to go hear it preached one time from a pastor from Memphis whose name was R. G. Lee. He had a great sermon titled *Pay Day Some Day*. They said he preached it some ten thousand times because he was always asked to preach it. He even made it into a play and put music to it and all but it's about that powerful moment that's being described when we all will stand before the judgment seat. Now we are there in Scripture. The books were opened but now look as we continue in the interlude.

Daniel 7:11, 12 says, **11** *"I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. (Even in that moment, that horn, that man who is arrogant, pompous and will not tolerate any rivals, in the midst of that he is still speaking.) And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.* So now what do we see? These beasts according to the sovereign hand of God at the appointed time, even this last one, in all of his horror and strength is defeated, the one that the little horn was upon. Now watch as the interlude continues. How did this defeat take place? Now we will be told.

Daniel 7:13, 14 says, **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.* Up to the Ancient of Days comes one like the son of man. This One is the King. He has a Kingdom that cannot be destroyed. These other ones were destroyed, even the fourth one. The little horn is defeated even in all of its arrogance and pomposity against the living God. It doesn't matter that it is coming out of this roaring sea or its monstrous looks or its seeming ferocity. I look at these visions here and what is being described and it seems like this is so overwhelming and then the Ancient of Days sends the Son of Man and He establishes a Kingdom that is forever. Now let's see what the interpretation is.

Daniel wants to know about it so we'll go to the third part. Daniel 7:15-28 says **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. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’ 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, 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. 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. 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. 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; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.’ 28 “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”* In other words, Daniel hasn't quite yet been settled. We have more visions to come. So we are not going to settle everything with this vision

What has this interpretation told us? First of all it is one that doesn't amaze us. All of these beasts represent kings and kingdoms and that shouldn't surprise us. We even have kings and kingdoms represented by eagles today, don't we? Do you remember one? You live in it. That's how people know us is be the eagle. If Ben Franklin had his way they would have known us as the turkey. You have Russia, China and the bear and

things that are still out there today. There are also those who would try to take modern language that is being used about nations today and put it to these particular kingdoms but I don't believe so. I think the Scriptures are pretty clear here that what we have is Babylon, then Medo-Persia, then Greece, then the Roman Empire but the Roman Empire is different from all the rest because it doesn't just end.

The Roman Empire keeps going and it has spawned numerous empires. Its legacy empires have continued. We even live in that legacy today throughout Europe and the West. Those legacy empires have continued with it and other empires have risen up in trying to respond to it. So it continues. There have been warfare of its kings and its kingdoms and all of those things have been taking place with a constant rebellion against God and constantly looking for these legacy empires that have come out of the Roman Empire. They have continually sought to make war against God, His Kingdom and to wear out the saints and seemingly at times prevail upon them. The hundred plus million that died in China, the million under Pol Pot, the millions who died in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution there have been in kingdom after kingdom this assault upon the people of God through the kingdoms of this world.

I'm not going to take us very far tonight, we'll go further later, but there seems to be this one kingdom manifestation of that Roman Empire by one powerful leader who will be one standing against the Ancient of Days. It will be the Anti-Christ, a man, who will boast great things even to the changing of things – the changing of laws, the denying of God's laws, the denying of truth, the denying of all that is right. This one who will usurp with great power seemingly to the point of prevailing until the Ancient of Days sends the Son of Man and He brings the victory and His Kingdom. Then He'll ultimately bring it to glorious triumph.

I want to give you a couple of takeaways here. Remember we are going to be building on these visions but the first thing I'd like you to see is to take a look at where we have come from the vision of Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel interpreted to this vision that was given to Daniel. So here is a vision that is given to Daniel that goes back to Nebuchadnezzar's vision and we see that there is a relationship that there. It is a relationship that deals with the rebellion against God and His Kingdom which is directly related to the kingdoms of this world. My forefathers, who had a Christian world and life view when they put this country into place, knew you have to have limited government because every experience in government had always been not only tyrannical but ultimately rebellious against the true and living God. Power in the hands of men corrupts them. So we have had a history of it from before Babylon with Assyria, then Medo-Persians, Greeks, Romans and then all of these legacy empires that have come out of it since then in these years upon years upon years.

There's a clear connection back there in that in Nebuchadnezzar's vision the kingdoms rise up in pride and arrogance against God thinking that they are greater than Him but that small stone, the Kingdom of God, shall smash them. In Daniel's dream there is not only a parallel that's here and instead of stone that's been cut loose to destroy the image now the Ancient of Days sends One like the Son of Man who will destroy the kingdoms of this world and in whose Kingdom shall know no end. You see the parallel that continues but in this case the point of the beast is not their pride and arrogance but their ferocity and their unremitting warfare against God and His people. Thus there will be many martyrs and the blood of the martyrs will cry out to the King "How long?"

The second takeaway is that we are promised with this vision that we live in an age and a season of persecution and assault. This is not new. What did Jesus say? If you look in John 3 or John 16 this is what Jesus says, “In the world you have tribulation. In Me you have peace. Take courage for the Son of Man has overcome the world. I’ve won the victory but in this world you will be under assault.” You will also hear Him say, “Beware of men. They will deliver you up to the synagogues in the trials but I will give you what to say and how to say it. As your days are so shall your strength be.” We are warned and told that we are like sheep led to be slaughtered because we live in an age where seemingly the Kingdom of God would be taken by force if men were able in the powers of the kingdoms of this world.

The third takeaway is a reminder of unending conflict with the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of God yet in their rage God remains sovereign. If you read the history of nations very few nations lasted beyond 200 to 300 years, very few. I really pray about the nation I’m apart of. I know it’s not the United States that makes Christianity. It is God’s kindness, grace and providence that has allowed the United States to be apart of what He has done and benefited from it. I believe that my country will enjoy more blessings only if it has an awakening and unless there is a revival there won’t be an awakening and unless there is a reformation in the leadership of the church in pastors, elders and deacons, with confidence in the Gospel, a denial of self, and an exaltation of Christ, then I don’t think the church will be revived. If the church isn’t revived I don’t think there will be an awakening.

The other thing about my country is I think God has blessed this country because it has welcomed His church. When it quits welcoming His church then I believe it comes directly under the assault of God. He will bless those who bless His people. His people there, living for Him, become a blessing to them. So that is what I pray about but just look at the stroke of the kingdoms of this world – 100 years, 150 years. The Lord raised up Babylon just basically for enough time to take care of what He wanted to do which was to discipline His people for 70 years. So the kingdoms of this world are here and they rise up and every time we see them we think they are unstoppable or unconquerable and they are going to win the victory but in fact they don’t last long. However the Kingdom of God is forever and the kingdoms of this world only stand at God’s allowance and command in His sovereign appointment.

Here is something I have a hard time communicating to young people and I just figured they didn’t live when I lived but in the 1950’s when I was in grade school we had atomic war alerts where we hid under desks or got into a bus and rode out to a country school somewhere to escape the inevitable bomb that was going to drop. I lived one block off of Independence Blvd listening to the sirens each night wondering is this the blast that is telling us to leave the city because they are going to attack us. Then the Berlin Wall fell. If you had told me the Berlin Wall was going to fall when I was in school I would have told you that you were crazy. It may fall on top of us but I would have said you were crazy but our God is the God of glory. He is sovereign and kingdoms and kings only stand at His appointment and His allowance and are circumscribed by His providence and by His decrees.

The fourth takeaway is the assurance of the victory of the King of Kings. Why did Jesus come into this world? He came into this world to save us from our sins, to glorify the Father, to seek and to save the lost. Another reason He came into this world is

to go to war. He came to defeat Satan. 1 John 3:8b says, *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”* He came to destroy the works of Satan. How did He do? The Son of God becomes the Son of Man and the Ancient of Days sends Him. What happens when He does? He came to destroy the works of the evil one. Hebrews 2:14, 15 says, **14** *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

Is there still death in this world? Absolutely. Is Satan still in a death struggle and is his struggle still killing? Absolutely but he has been defeated. The death blow has been given to him. The serpent’s head has been crushed. The Son of Man’s heel was bruised but the serpent’s head was crushed. The heel is not a death blow. The head is a death blow. That’s why Jesus said, “I see Satan falling like lightning” (Luke 10:18). That’s why Jesus said, “I have bound the strong man. I have come and won the victory. Satan does not prevail. I have prevailed over him and his principalities and the authorities of darkness.”

When Jesus went to the cross, won this victory and defeated Satan and He saved you and me who were dead in our sins, how did He do it? How did He free me from sin, death and Satan? Colossians 2:13-15 says, **13** *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.* The King triumphed in His death and we have been set free. He has won the victory. He is the One who the Ancient of Days sent. Seemingly all would prevail until the Ancient of Days sent the Son of Man.

Now has that victory been consummated yet? No, the King is coming again but He has won that victory. He has won it in all of its glory. Therefore resist the evil one and do not fear those who can kill the body. Do not fear them for you have the Lord God who has won the victory and you can’t kill me. You can kill my body but I already died and it is no longer me who lives but Christ that lives in me. The life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given Himself up for me.

Here is one final thought. Daniel 7 feeds two passages in Revelation. I will close with these two passages. Remember the Ancient of Days is going to send the Son of Man and He is also going to have a day of judgment. On that Day of Judgment that Son of Man is going to be the Lamb upon the throne. I want to look at that judgment throne that Daniel 7 talks about in Revelation. Clearly John led by the Spirit of God uses that text in Daniel 7 in the interlude. Revelation 20:11-15 says, **11** *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened (Daniel 7). Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second*

death, the lake of fire. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

There is that day with the Ancient of Days and there is that Savior who is the Judge of all. He is not only the Judge of all from the books which contain the record, merits, and demerits of my life and I stand before God guilty but praise God because the Son of Man has come and won the victory there's another book. It's not just the books but there's another one called The Book of Life. All of us will appear before that judgment seat and the key to what happens is which book you are in. Those in the books are cast into the lake of fire. Those in The Book of Life have been redeemed by the Lamb.

Now I want to look at the second passage in Revelation 13. Here you see now the language from Daniel 7. We will look at this further in the following study. Revelation 13:1-10 says, **1** And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. **2** And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. **3** One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. **4** And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" **5** And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. **7** Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, **8** and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. **9** If anyone has an ear, let him hear: **10** If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

By the way there will be a second beast and we will come back to take a look at him. He is in the last half of that chapter. This passage talks about the first beast that comes up out of the sea. There is going to be another beast that comes up out of the land, a false religion beast. In this text it is a beast of power with the nations of this world that give birth to this anti-Christ and this final rebellion against God with the kingdoms of this world against Him. It will have a religious element and an economic element but here is this political, powerful, military element that rises up speaking blasphemy, denying the glories of God and bringing war against the people of God, living with absolute authority and wielding the sword upon any and all to maintain its power. But it is the Lord who will have the victory over this beast.

I know you're thinking I didn't say anything about the time, times and half a times in Daniel 7, so I'd like to give you a thought on this. Please don't go buy any books that tell you what this is. I will tell you now and save you the money. Daniel 7:25b says, "*and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*" That will be there for that period of time. So why is that there? How am I to know what that is? Let's look back in Daniel 7:12 which says, "*As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.*" What

did we learn about the Kingdom of God? Daniel 7:13, 14 says **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.* It is forever. The rage that we endure is for a season, a time. The Kingdom and the King who owns you, Jesus, is forever and ever and ever amen. Let’s pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time that we could be together. We look and we see there will be raging against You to the end by the kingdoms of this world but we have a King, not One coming to win the victory, but the One who came and has won the victory, so in the confidence in Him we now stand. We look for that day when He will come and bring it all to completion. Father, help us to see that as we continue to work our way through this Book. We thank You that we have a King who rules forever. His Kingdom is forever and the kingdoms of this world will not prevail for His has won the victory, Jesus. I thank You in His Name, Amen.