

Overview of Daniel 7–12

It's about to get more difficult!

Overview

- Daniel receives four visions in these last six chapters: one in chapter 7; one in chapter 8; one in chapter 9 (along with a prayer offered by Daniel); and a final long vision in chapters 10–12.
- A date is given for each vision—#1 in the first year of Belshazzar; #2 in the third year of Belshazzar; #3 in the first year of Darius the Mede; and #4 in the third year of Cyrus.
- Visions in chapters 7–8 (#1, 2) come BEFORE the events of chapters 5–6.

Overview

- These visions tell of events that would come to pass in the time of the next three empires after Daniel's day—up to and including the establishment of God's kingdom.
- **Main point** of these visions: God is in control!
 - And to be more specific...God WILL establish His kingdom, no matter how fierce the opposition may be.
 - Those who oppose Him and His kingdom are defeated before they even start.

Approach

- Great detail is given in these visions, but we will NOT be able to interpret every detail. Key word: RESTRAINT!
- We will focus on the main point of each vision, and then do our best to understand the finer details.
- To help us understand, we will obviously give greater attention to the **inspired** interpretation (e.g., 7:17–18, 23–27).
- We will also use passages from elsewhere, as well as historical accounts.

Daniel 7

The judgment of the four beasts—
especially the fourth one

The coronation of the Son of Man

What did Daniel see?

- He saw four beasts come up from the sea, each one different from the other (v. 3):
 - The first was like a LION and had eagle's wings. He saw its wings plucked; saw it lifted up and made to stand on two feet like a man; and saw a man's heart be given to it (4).
 - The second was like a BEAR; it was raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. They said to it, "Arise, devour much flesh!" (5).
 - The third was like a LEOPARD, and on its back four wings of a bird. It had four heads, and dominion was given to it (6).

The Fourth Beast

- Dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong, with huge iron teeth and nails of bronze. It was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue (the scraps) with its feet (7, 19).
- It had 10 horns, but coming up from among these horns was another one, a little horn before whom 3 of the first horns fell, or were plucked out by the roots (8, 20).
- Its appearance was greater than his fellows. It had eyes like the eyes of a man, and its mouth spoke pompous words. It was making war against the saints (7–8, 20–21).

The Big Moment

- Read 7:9–14.
 - Whose coronation or crowning—whose ascension to the throne is described here?
 - Peter describes His coronation in Acts 2:30–36.
 - “While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).
 - Revelation 5 takes us through a door into heaven where we see Him on the throne.

The Inspired Interpretation

- Read 7:15–17, 23–27.

The four kings (kingdoms)

- Same as those depicted in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2? Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome?
 - **First beast:** Eagle's wings? Made to stand? Man's heart?
 - Remind you of someone we read about earlier?
 - **Second beast:** One side higher than the other?
 - Remember, Cyrus of Persia conquered the Median army.
 - **Third beast:** Four wings and four heads?
 - Greece was divided into four distinct sections.
 - **Fourth beast:** Teeth of iron (recall legs of iron); God's kingdom established during the time of this kingdom.

The Little Horn

- The king that arises after ten kings, and who subdues three kings. The one that speaks pompous words against the Most High, and persecutes the saints for a time and times and half a time.
 - Same as the beast depicted in Revelation 13? See vv. 1, 5; then compare with 12:6, 14.
 - Revelation 17:7–18.

Summary

- God is showing Daniel, and through him, all generations to come that God will be victorious.
- God knew that when the time came for Him to establish His kingdom, the government of that day would oppose Him and persecute His saints.
- No problem for God, because the judgment against this persecuting force was already set! Victory had already been declared.
- And this is what we see played out in Revelation.