

“DANIEL’S VISION: PART 2”

Daniel 7:9-28

For a variety of reasons, *“modern commentators are generally agreed that chapter 7 is the single most important chapter of the Book of Daniel.”*

“(Daniel 7 is) the heart of the Book of Daniel.” (Porteous)

“It would be no exaggeration to say that this chapter is one of the most important passages of the OT.” (Heaton)

Why is this chapter so significant? Dan 6 marks the end of Daniel’s life and ministry:

Daniel 6:28... So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 7-12 was written by Daniel as a prophetic addendum to the historical narrative of his life and ministry during the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus. Chapter 7 is of extreme significance prophetically. Walvoord rightly maintains:

“As interpreted by conservative expositors, the vision of Daniel provides the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events to be found anywhere in the Old Testament.”¹

God made clear to the Jewish people through the prophet Daniel that Israel would continue to have a place in history, that their promised Messiah would come and deliver them from spiritual and national bondage, and that the Messiah would set

¹ Stephen R. Miller, [Daniel](#), vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 191–192.

up his kingdom and reign over the nations with Israel raised to a place of prominence. The visions of chaps. 7–12 are given in chronological sequence:

- **chap. 7—first year of Belshazzar**
- **chap. 8—third year of Belshazzar**
- **chap. 9—first year of Darius the Mede**
- **chaps. 10–12—third year of Cyrus.**

Okay, that’s a little review to catch us up. Tonight, let’s begin with where we left off last week. . .

Daniel 7:8... “While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.”

The fourth beast is symbolic of Rome. The ten horns coming out of this fourth beast represent a confederation of kings (kingdoms or nations) that stem out of the old Roman Empire (**7:24**). This federation’s dominion will immediately precede the return of Christ. The empire will be destroyed by the coming of the kingdom of God (cf. 7:11, 13–14, 21–22, 26–27).

Daniel reveals some facts about the ruler (**little horn**) of this coalition (ten horns):

- **He will be brilliant (eyes like a man).**
- **He will be arrogant (mouth speaking arrogant things).**
- **He will conquer three kingdoms.**

The picture of this evil, future king in these verses squares with descriptions of him found in other Scripture passages (cf. **Dan 11:36–37; 2 Thess 2:3–12; Rev 13:5–6**). He is none other than the most infamous person in all of human history—the “Antichrist.” For the next few minutes let’s go through these verses in Daniel 7 and see what we can learn about “*this last world dictator*.” Let’s skip down to verse 15:

Daniel 7:15–16... “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. 16 “I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

The coming beast-like empires struck terror in Daniel’s heart. Shoving away any timidity, Daniel rushed to the side of what I assume to be an angel. The prophet asked the angel what all of this meant. What we are about to look at is the interpretation given by this heavenly being.

Daniel 7:17... “These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who will arise from the earth*.”

So, the four beasts that came out of the sea were “four kings that will rise from the earth.” We’ve discussed these kings and their kingdoms earlier.

- **Babylon (vs. 4)**
- **Medo-Persia (vs. 5)**
- **Greece (vs. 6)**
- **Rome (vs. 7)**

While verse 17 speaks about the secular kingdoms of this world, verse 18 addresses the kingdom of God...

Daniel 7:18... ‘But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’

After the four empires run their course, “the saints [“the holy ones”] of the Most High will receive” the kingdom of God and possess it “forever—for all ages to come.” Literally it reads—“to the forever and to the forever of forever”.

In verses 19-26, we are introduced once again to that vicious fourth beast. Last week I reminded you that the Roman empire was never defeated. It just sort of went into hibernation. The Scriptures teach that as the return of Christ draws near,

it will be revived. Out of this vile and sacrilegious end-time dynasty, the Antichrist will arise.

THE ANTICHRIST'S DISCLOSURE (vs. 19-20; 23-24)

Daniel 7:19–20, 23-24... “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, **20** and *the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates. **23** “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. **24** ‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

A ten-nation confederacy will develop out of the old Roman empire. John Phillips was right when he wrote, “The shadow of this coming confederation of nations lies across Western Europe today.” These kings or heads of state will hold on to a measure of their sovereignty (even as they are doing today).

The “horn which came up, and before which three of them fell” is the Antichrist. Scripture tells us much about this evil, demonic figure.

■ “He’s the man of lawlessness...the son of destruction”

2 Thessalonians 2:3... Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

■ “A king will arise, insolent and skilled in intrigue.”

Daniel 8:23... “In the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run *their course*, A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue.”

■ **“A beast coming up out of the sea”**

Revelation 13:1... And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names.

■ **“Antichrist”**

1 John 2:18... Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

The Antichrist will rise from obscurity to prominence within the revived Roman empire. Evidently three members of this confederation will fall to this evil one. Dr. John Phillips observed that the Antichrist will most likely threaten to pull the economic rug out from under America unless we become a part of a new Atlantic Alliance. This disclosure of Antichrist is indeed distressing. This is the man who will become the last world dictator.

THE DEPRAVITY OF ANTICHRIST (vs. 20b-21; 25)

Daniel 7:20–21... *and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 “I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 25 ‘He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

Notice that he **“was larger in appearance than its associates.”** I believe this refers to his superior leadership skills. This demon inspired man will command attention. No doubt he will be a great orator. He may even have a commanding physical presence. He will rise to power in a time of world-wide chaos.

Take note of another reference—he had **“a mouth uttering great boasts.”** (vs. 20) Verse 25 elaborates—**“he will speak out against the Most High.”** This charismatic leader will bring peace to Israel for 3¹/₂ years. Then, in a show of unbelievable blasphemy, he will enter the temple and declare himself to be god. People the world over will be required to fall down and worship him (Revelation 13).

Look at verse 25. What did Daniel mean when he recorded these words from the angelic being—**“He will intend to make alterations in times and in law.”** Nothing is out of bounds for this vile serpent of hell. He will try to change the calendar maybe by going to a ten-day week like Napoleon tried to institute during the French Revolution (as opposed to God’s ordained 7-day week). He will also try to change the law by creating his own morality. Do you get the picture? This man will try to remove God from the picture. In **2 Thessalonians 2:9** we are told that the Antichrist will be equipped by Satan to do great wonders and signs.

Don’t miss this—he will **“wage war with the saints and overpower them”** (vs. 21) and he will **“wear down the saints of the Highest One.”** (vs. 25) An all out effort to rid the world of Christians will be launched from the headquarters of this final world dictator. The phrase *“wear down the saints”* means to harass them every moment. They will be suffocated with constant persecution.

THE DESTINY OF THE ANTICHRIST (vs. 22; 26-28)

Daniel 7:22... until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. 26 ‘But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 ‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’ 28 “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

A divine time limit is set by God—**“a time, times, and half a time.”** This refers to 3¹/₂ years to carry out his demonic scheme. God’s judgment of this man is certain.

Here we are reminded of the sovereignty of our great God. The devil and his associates will be thrown into hell.

Revelation 20:10... And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

.....

Now let's go back to Daniel 7:9-14 and see the glory of God and the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. An awesome scene is now unfolded before Daniel's eyes as the "Ancient of Days" (the eternal God) takes his seat upon the throne and exercises his prerogative as the great Judge (or Chief Justice) of the universe.²

Daniel 7:9–10... "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His vesture *was* like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, Its wheels *were* a burning fire. 10 "A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

Clothing worn by the "Ancient of Days" was "white as snow," symbolizing the absolute moral purity (cf. Isa 1:18; Rev 1:14) of the divine Judge. God is holy, and because he is holy, he judges sin. His "hair" was "white like wool." White hair is a sign of old age and an apt *symbol of God's eternal nature*, already emphasized in this passage by the title "Ancient of Days." The figure may delineate the holiness of God as well.³

■ **God's throne was "flaming with fire"**

² Stephen R. Miller, [Daniel](#), vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 204.

³ Stephen R. Miller, [Daniel](#), vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 204.

- **“its wheels were all ablaze”**
- **“Fire” is commonly a symbol of judgment.**
- **God’s throne engulfed in flames signifies the wrath of God.**

Daniel 7:11–12... “Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. 12 “As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

The other beasts, namely, the first three empires, had their authority taken away but were allowed to continue. How could these beasts lose their authority and still exist? The explanation is that their dominance ceased, but they continued to live because they were absorbed into the next empire. ⁴ (Revelation 13:2)

Daniel 7:13... “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.”

With these two verses the grand climax of the vision is reached. Four kingdoms were symbolized by the beasts—the kingdoms of men. Now another kingdom comes into view—the kingdom of God. Verse 13 is the verse of Daniel most often quoted in the New Testament.

Daniel 7:14... “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every language* Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.”

Since the “son of man” was “given” a kingdom and authority to rule, this scene evidently describes the coronation of the “son of man” by the Ancient of Days. According to the text, therefore, this individual will be crowned as the sovereign

⁴ Stephen R. Miller, [Daniel](#), vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 206.

ruler of the world. His reign will never end. Listen, we are not commanded to look for the coming of Antichrist, so don't get caught up in trying to figure who fits the number 666. Look for the coming of our blessed Lord. Passionately begin to tell others about the Lord Jesus. Be faithful to the finish! Work and watch—those two words should be define our activities in these last days.