

BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 7

Lesson # 8

In **Dan. 7** the book of Daniel switches emphasis. No longer does the book have the flavor of a historical narrative sprinkled with prophecy. From **chs. 7-12** the book is mostly prophecy sprinkled with a little historical narrative. **Chapter 7** is especially significant because it contains the vision of the four beasts, the vision of the Ancient of Days, and the vision of one like the Son of Man.

I. **VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS (Read Dan. 7:1-8)**

A. From **vs. 1**, see if you can **figure out the year** that this prophecy was received. What was Daniel doing at this time of his life?

1. What does **vs. 1** mean when Daniel says, *"I saw a dream and visions"*?
2. What does it mean that he *"related the following summary of it"*?

B. Read through **Daniel 7** and notice the time span that the prophecies in this book cover. **Write down a time line of events** as described in this chapter below.

C. According to **vs. 2** Daniel received this vision at night.

1. What things did he see?
2. What were these things doing and to what?
3. What do these things mean?

- D. In **vs. 3** Daniel saw something coming out of the sea.
1. What were they?

 2. What do they represent? (defend your answer from the context)
- E. The **first beast** is described in **vs. 4**.
1. What was the form of the first beast and what does this mean or represent?

 2. What was unique about this beast that is unlike the animal of its same form? What does this uniqueness represent?

 3. After this beast is described what three things happened to it?
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.
- F. The **second beast** is described in **vs. 5**.
1. What physical form did it have and what does this mean or represent?

 2. What position was it in? What does this mean?

 3. What was in its mouth? What does this mean?

 4. What was this beast told to do? What does this mean?

- G. The **third beast** is described in **vs. 6**.
1. What physical form did it have for a body and what does this mean or represent?

 2. What physical form did it have on its back and what does this mean or represent?

 3. What was unique about its head and what does this mean or represent?

 4. What was given to this beast?

- H. The **fourth beast** is described in **vss. 7-8**.
1. In **vs. 7** Daniel gives nine descriptions of the fourth beast. Write them down below and what you think they might mean or represent.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

 - d.

 - e.

 - f.

 - g.

 - h.

- i.
- 2. According to **vs. 8** what came up among the ten horns?
 - a. When it came up what happened and what does this mean?
 - b. What two attributes did the little horn have?
- I. In your own words **summarize what the first eight verses of Dan. 7** are talking about.
- J. Why do you think God gave Daniel the vision of the four beasts? What practical application do you think this vision had for:
 - 1. The people of Daniel's time?
 - 2. The people who came after Daniel but before our time?
 - 3. For those of us living today?
 - 4. For the people alive during the seven year tribulation period immediately preceding the second coming of Christ?

II. **VISION OF THE ANCIENT OF DAYS (Read Dan. 7:9-12)**

A. According to **vs. 9** Daniel says he “*kept looking.*” What does this mean, where was he looking and what did he keep looking at?

1. What did Daniel see set up and what does this mean?

2. Who did Daniel see and what did he do?

a. Look up the Scriptures below and write down what they teach you about one of the attributes of the person Daniel saw.

(1) **Psa. 90:2-4**

(2) **Psa. 102:12**

(3) **Prov. 8:22-31**

(4) **I Tim. 6:15-16**

(5) What are some of the practical applications of this attribute of God to our lives today?

3. In **vss. 9** and the beginning of **vs. 10** **five descriptions are given** of the person Daniel saw. Write them down along with any meaning or significance.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

4. Who was there attending the person Daniel saw on the throne according to **vs. 10**?

a. How many attendants were there?

b. What two phrases tell us what kind of scene this is and what is happening?

B. According to **vs. 11**:

1. Who was being judged?

2. What three things happened to the fourth beast?

a.

b.

c.

d. Sometimes we see evil in the world and we ask ourselves, “Why doesn’t God do something about it?” How should Christians think and respond to evil in the world?

C. According to **vs. 12** what happened to the other three beasts?

1. For how long was their life extended?

2. Why does God allow pagan nations to continue? Look up the verses below and write down what you learn from them.

a. **Gen. 15:13-16**

b. **Deut. 6:10-12**

c. **Mt. 23:29-36**

d. **Lk. 6:35**

e. **Lk. 21:20-24**

f. **Gal. 4:4**

g. **II Pet. 3:8-9**

h. **Rev. 6:9-11**

- i. What do these verses teach about the reason/s God allows evil to continue?

- j. When God allows evil to continue is evil completely unchecked or is God holding evil back even when it is allowed to continue?

(1) **II Thess. 2:6-7**

- (2) Below are some excerpts from Jonathan Edwards' sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" where he describes why unrepentant sinners are allowed to continue in sin and why God's just execution is stayed. Read through these paragraphs and mark with a pen or highlighter the reasons Edwards gives.

"There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God." — By the mere pleasure of God, I mean his sovereign pleasure, his arbitrary will, restrained by no obligation, hindered by no manner of difficulty, any more than if nothing else but God's mere will had in the least degree, or in any respect whatsoever, any hand in the preservation of wicked men one moment. . .

The use of this awful subject may be for awakening unconverted persons in this congregation. This that you have heard is the case of every one of you that are out of Christ. — That world of misery, that take of burning brimstone, is extended abroad under you. There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is hell's wide gaping mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor any thing to take hold of; there is nothing between you and hell but the air; it is only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up. . .

The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present; they increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the longer the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty is its course, when once it is let loose. It is true, that judgment against your evil works has not been executed hitherto; the floods of God's vengeance have been withheld; but your guilt in the mean time is constantly increasing, and you are every day treasuring up more wrath; the waters are constantly rising, and waxing more and more mighty; and there is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, that holds the waters back, that are unwilling to be stopped, and press hard to go forward. If God should only withdraw his hand from the flood-gate, it would immediately fly open, and the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God, would rush forth with inconceivable fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent power; and if your strength were ten thousand times greater than it is, yea, ten thousand times greater than the strength of the stoutest, sturdiest devil in hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it. . .

The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood. Thus all you that never passed under a great change of heart, by the mighty power of the Spirit of God upon your souls; all you that were never born

again, and made new creatures, and raised from being dead in sin, to a state of new birth, and before altogether unexperienced light and life, are in the hands of an angry God. . .

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to hell the last night; that you was suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep. And there is no other reason to be given, why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up. There is no other reason to be given why you have not gone to hell, since you have sat here in the house of God, provoking his pure eyes by your sinful wicked manner of attending his solemn worship. Yea, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell.

O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder; and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment.

- (3) What reason/s did Edward's give for God allowing unrepentant sinners to continue on in their rebellion?

- (4) Thomas Watson in his theology *A Body of Divinity* points out, "*If God lets men prosper a while in their sin, his vial of wrath is all this while filling; his sword is all this time [being sharpened]: and though God may forbear men a while, yet long forbearance is no forgiveness. The longer God is in taking his blow, the heavier it will be at last. As long as there is eternity, God has time enough to reckon with his enemies. Justice may be as a lion asleep, but at last, the lion will awake, and roar upon the sinner.*" (pg. 90)

- (5) What practical application can we learn from Edwards and Watson?

- D. What do we learn about God's attributes listed below? Look up the Scriptures and write down what they teach you about each attribute.
1. What do the verse below teach you about God's justice?
 - a. **Deut. 32:4**
 - b. **Job 34:12**
 - c. **Psa. 89:14**
 - d. **Isa. 45:21**
 - e. **Zeph. 3:5**
 - f. What practical applications does knowing God is just have to our lives today?
 2. What do the verses below teach you about God's sovereignty?
 - a. **II Chron. 20:6**
 - b. **Job 23:13-14**
 - c. **Psa. 103:19**
 - d. **Psa. 115:3**

e. **Eph. 1:11**

f. What practical application does knowing God is sovereign have to our lives today?

3. What do the verses below teach you about God's patience?

a. **Psa. 78:38**

b. **Lam. 3:22-23**

c. **Rom. 9:21-24**

d. **II Pet. 3:9**

e. What practical application does knowing God is patient have to our lives today?

III. **VISION OF THE SON OF MAN (Read Dan. 7:13-14)**

A. According to vs. 13 Daniel saw one "*like the Son of Man*"?

1. Usually the word "like" is used to describe similarity. It is one of the key indicators for simile. What is a simile? Is Daniel saying that the person he saw is similar to the Son of Man, or that he is the Son of Man? How is "like" used here?

2. The Son of Man appeared in or with what? Is this to be understood literally or figuratively and if figuratively, what is its secondary meaning?
3. Who did the Son of Man approach?
4. Who presented the Son of Man and before whom was He presented?

B. According to **vs. 14** the Son of Man was given what three things?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Why was the Son of Man given these things?
5. How is the Son of Man's dominion described?
6. How is the Son of Man's Kingdom described?

C. What is the significance of the Son of Man appearing and receiving everlasting dominion and an eternal kingdom after the four beasts are destroyed?

IV. **VISIONS INTERPRETED (Read Dan. 7:15-28)**

A. According to **vs. 15** what two effects did Daniel's dream have on him?

- B. In **vs. 16** we learn that Daniel approached someone.
1. Who did he approach?
 2. Where was he?
 3. What was he seeking after?
 4. And what was the response?
- C. What do the four beasts represent according to **vs. 17**?
- D. In **vs. 18** we are told several things.
1. Who or what is a saint?
 2. Who is "*the Highest One*?"
 3. Who is a "*saint of the Highest One*?"
 4. What "*kingdom*" is being spoken of and what is unique about it?
- E. What, according to **vss. 19-20**, were the two specific things that Daniel wanted to know about?

- F. In **vss. 21-22** we learn about the “Little Horn.”
1. How does the little horn respond to the saints of the Highest One?
 2. How long does this continue and what brings the Little Horns actions to an end?
 3. What happens to the saints after the Little Horn is no more?
 4. Look up the Scriptures below. Write down what they teach you about the Little Horn (called by different names in different texts).
 - a. **II Thess. 2:1-4**
 - b. **I John 2:18-22**
 - c. **I John 4:2-3**

Verse	What each text teaches you about the “Little Horn”
Rev. 11:7	
Rev. 13:1-18	
Rev. 14:9	
Rev. 14:11	
Rev. 15:2	

Verse	What each text teaches you about the "Little Horn"
Rev. 16:2	
Rev. 16:10	
Rev. 16:13	
Rev. 17:3-17	
Rev. 19:19-20	
Rev. 20:4	
Rev. 20:10	

- G. In **vs. 23** what specifically is the fourth beast? Is the fourth beast the same as the little horn? If not, how do they differ?
- H. What is the relationship between the fourth beast and the little horn according to **vs. 24**?
- I. According to **vs. 25** what five things does the little horn do?
- 1.
 - 2.

3.

4.

5.

J. Though the little horn will have great power, what will happen to it according to vs. 26?

1. **Rev. 19:20**

2. **Rev. 20:10**

K. In recent years the media has produced many TV programs and movies about the antichrist. Why do you think this is?

1. How many movies have been produced about Jesus Christ in comparison? Why do you think this is?

2. What is so fascinating about the antichrist to the world?

3. When the antichrist does come to power during the tribulation why doesn't the world recognize him for who he is and reject him as their leader?

L. Should Christians be looking to figure out the identity of the little horn? Why or why not?

- M. Who, according to **vs. 27**, receives the kingdom after the little horn is destroyed?
1. How long will the kingdom that follows the little horn's kingdom last?
 2. What will those who inherit the kingdom do forever?
- N. **Vs. 28** tells us several things:
1. What ended and what does this tell us about the entire chapter?
 2. What do we learn about Daniel's thoughts? What does this tell us?
 3. What do we learn happened to Daniel's face? What does this tell us?
 4. What did Daniel do with the information? Why?
- O. What do you think are the grand lessons of **Dan. 7** that we can apply to our lives today?