

Daniel 7 (Part 1)

Opening thoughts to consider:

“Commentators are generally agreed that chapter 7 is the single most important chapter of the Book of Daniel...It would be no exaggeration to say that this chapter is one of the most important passages of the OT.”-NAC

“The earlier chapters are preparatory to the second part of Daniel and are necessary for understanding.”-NAC

“This section of God’s Word is not meant to be an amusement for the armchair theological sleuths. It is intended to give an overwhelming impression of the mysteries of God’s purposes and the awful conflict that lies behind and beneath history. Here is true apocalyptic. Our depravity is unveiled, and the curtain that hides the glory of God is momentarily drawn back. We are given a brief look into the throne room of the universe and the sovereignty of God.”-Ferguson

“Here Daniel begins to offer instruction peculiar to the Church.”-Calvin

Part 1-_____ and brutality: 4 Beasts representing 4 Kingdoms (7:1-8)

This vision starts with wind stirring up the great sea. The sea is a picture of the _____ world that is stirred up by the tribulations and struggles of life under the sun. From this troubled and chaotic world arises 4 kingdoms appearing one after the other.

We will follow the pattern of interpretation that was already established in chapter 2. There is a noticeable difference from chapter 2 in imagery (_____ verses _____ view)

1. _____ kingdom-the lion with eagle’s wings

Most commentators believe here we have a reference to Nebuchadnezzars humiliation (wings being ripped off) and his _____ (being given the heart of a man).

2. Mede/_____ kingdom-the bear with ribs in his mouth

The reference to one side being raised up higher than the other side reveals the _____ of the Persian element of this kingdom. It was a vicious kingdom and devoured all other kingdoms, becoming the biggest kingdom the world had ever seen up to this point.

3. _____ kingdom-the leopard with 4 bird’s wings & 4 heads

Here we have a reference to the speed and _____ of the Grecian kingdom under Alexander. The four heads are a possible reference to the universal dominion of this kingdom or to the division of the kingdom among Alexander’s four generals.

4. _____ kingdom-some unearthly beast with iron teeth

This beast is different from the others. While the others could kind of picture things the world had seen before, this one was new and something different. The Roman empire conquered and ruled through complete _____.

This beast had ten _____ but sprouted another that was superior to the other horns. This new horn also had eyes and a mouth from which it spoke blasphemous things.

“The number 10 here is to be taken in a symbolic sense as indicating a multiplicity of rulers, or an indefinitely large number of kings ...the number ten indicates completeness, we need not regard the horns as representing ten specific contemporary kings.”-Young

God’s _____ over all of these kingdoms is declared

Part 2: _____ and True Power (7:9-12)-a contrasted scene

In contrast to the chaotic world where evil empires emerge, we see a scene of tranquility and order with the Ancient of Days seated in a heavenly _____. While the nations come and go, the God of Heaven is called the Ancient of Days (He who is, will be, and has always been).

Another contrast is the pure spotless attire and look of the Holy One. As opposed to the grotesque looking beasts, we see the Perfect One, surrounded in power, worshipped by a multitude, and in an orderly way calling the nations to _____ for their deeds.

The seemingly unstoppable fourth beast is _____ before the Ancient of Days. While the people of earth could not stand before this beast, the Ancient of Days kills and destroys it. The Ancient of Days is over all kingdoms of men. He exalts and He tears down.

“In the face of the terrible havoc that people are able to cause, Daniel is reminded that ultimate authority does not reside in Babylon, Persia, Greece, or Rome...Christians who have this vision of God and His throne will never feel alone and isolated. They will find their point of orientation not on earth but in heaven. Their perspective on history will not arise from below (that is, from ‘the Great Sea’) but from above, from the throne of God.”-Ferguson

Our God is to be worshipped with utter _____ and godly fear. Any attempt to downplay His sovereignty or His terrible majesty is to be utterly detested by Christians.