

DANIEL 7 THE VISION OF FOUR BEASTS

To Be Used July 27 – August 1

This week and for the next few weeks we will be looking at apocalyptic literature. The word ‘apocalyptic’ means to reveal or unveil. In the Bible it has to do with the revealing of Jesus Christ at His second coming. These passages in scripture are given to believers to encourage them. These remind us what we have been seeing in the Old Testament—God is in control. Yahweh is the author of history. He writes history in advance. This is known as prophecy. As you read these passages in chapters Daniel 7-12, be encouraged. His Kingdom will come and His Will done!

Day 1 First Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and Daniel 7:1-8

In 1 Peter 1:5 the word ‘apocalypto’ means to reveal. Here it is talking about the revealing of Jesus “in the last time.” Peter was writing these words to encourage believers in the times of trials and difficulties. The passage in Daniel 7:1-8 explains events that will transpire in the short term and in the long term. As history has played out it is amazing that these events at least to a point have come to pass.

These verses remind us that though we face trials, difficulties and even heartaches in these last days that this is not the end. As we will see in our readings this week that though we face such times it is only strengthening us and getting us ready for Christ’s return. Books such as Daniel prepare our hearts for what is to come and most notable reminds us that God is in control and if we are on His team we have the final victory.

Take some time today to thank God for your salvation and thank Him that you know how it ends or actually begins. Soon He will make all things new and we can know Him now and in the future.

Day 2 First Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and Daniel 7:9-14

The passage in Daniel today pictures a courtroom scene. The Ancient of Days—God is there to pronounce judgment on the enemy of God in particular “the little horn.” This is clearly the antichrist and can be seen in Revelation 13. There is also in the courtroom was “One like the Son of Man.” This is clearly a reference to Jesus. One of His favorite terms for Himself was “The Son of Man.” Ultimately all power, authority and dominion would be given to Him. In contrast to the other kingdoms which will end His kingdom will never end but will be an “everlasting dominion.”

The writer of Hebrews tells God’s people not to forsake coming together but to consider how to encourage one another and all the more as we see the Day approaching. The Day here is a reference to times of the end which will be difficult and trying on God’s people. All believers need to be encouraged and encouraging! This is a time for God’s people to fill the churches across the country and world.

Have you been forsaking your church? Return to encourage and be encouraged.

Day 3 First Read Daniel 7:15-18 and Daniel 2:36-45

Daniel 7:15-17 is the interpretation of the dream for Daniel by an angel. He is told that the creatures are four kings and kingdoms. This is very much similar to what we saw in Daniel 2. This passage reminds us that though kingdoms will rise and fall in the end there will be only one kingdom that stand and never falls and it will be God’s kingdom. Through the years kingdoms have risen with great power only to be taken over by another. This was partially played out making reference to Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Alexander the Great and Greece.

We will soon see that God's kingdom will stand forever and no other kingdom will overcome it. Take some time and thank God that His kingdom and His glory will reign forever. Thank Him that while presidents, kings, and various leaders think their kingdom is the greatest we know they will soon fall. If you are a believer thank God that you are in His kingdom.

Day 4 First Read Daniel 7:19-25 and Luke 21:24

The fourth beast is Rome and still is somewhat in effect today. This is period describes the times of the Gentiles. Jesus made reference to this in Luke 21:24. Here is what one of my favorite commentators J. Vernon McGee says about this:

Gentiles have controlled Jerusalem from the day Titus conquered it until the present day. "Holy places" in Jerusalem are held by Gentiles. And there stands the Mosque of Omar where their temple should stand. Our Lord said Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. I have watched Jerusalem for a long time, and it is still trodden down by the Gentiles. The Gentiles are still in Jerusalem. Isn't it amazing how accurate the Word of God is?¹

It is still an amazing thing when you see the global control of gentiles while at the same time the huge and prevailing influence of God's people the Jews for thousands of years. Though a small number of people the influence and impact of God's chosen people on world history cannot be denied! It is amazing to see how the promise of God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 is still in effect.

Day 5 First Read Daniel 7:26-28; Revelation 11:15 and 22:5

The prophecy of the coming defeat of the enemy Satan and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom are again spelled out in Revelation. Remember apocalyptic literature was given in the Bible to encourage believers through the ages. I am sure there have been some extremely dark periods of history where these words kept the people of God going and on mission. For me it is that way today. We live in dark days. This is the first time I can remember where I felt like the followers of the Lord God are in the great minority. All the more reason for all of the Jesus followers to be crying out to the Lord for revival and spiritual awakening! Our God reigns and will reign forever in the New Heaven and New Earth!

¹ Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee.