

Daniel 7 Jesus as King

2:4 – 7:28 Aramaic

Daniel 7 is the most detailed of the symbolic visions in Daniel. As we saw before, it begins with the kingdom of Babylon under which Daniel lived at the time, and continues through time until God's kingdom is set up.

We have looked at much of the vision as we compared and contrasted it with the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2.

In Chapter 7 we find the four major kingdoms reflecting the four major parts of the image in Daniel 2.

Without a lot more detail, those kingdoms were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome in its different manifestations.

We have seen in Daniel 8 how those kingdoms are repeated with the exception of Babylon which almost off the scene by the time of that vision.

You will also remember that Daniel 9 is a parenthetical addition for Daniel because of his concerns for the return to Jerusalem. That prophecy focuses on the Messiah and the Jewish people.

The climax of Daniel 7 does not come with the final beast. It comes with the establishment of God's kingdom and the coronation of Jesus as King of Heaven and Earth.

We basically stopped our first study on Daniel 7 by describing the little horn power, and what he did on earth, and attempted to do in heaven.

Daniel 7:9-14 (KJV)

⁹ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

¹¹ I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

¹² As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their **dominion** taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

Now there is a key word that we find seven times in this chapter. That word is dominion. That word comes from the original word which can also mean empire.

This little horn/beast power had gone trampling over the other nations, and their inhabitants, exerting its dominion. In Daniel 8 the little horn power attempted to exalt itself up to heaven and exercise dominion in that area.

Here we find the end of the little horn/beast power. There is a judgment, not on this earth, but a judgment in heaven. This judgment not conducted by an earthly power, but by the Ancient of Days, God himself.

Now this judgment is not based on hearsay, witnesses, or other testimony. This judgment is based on the infallible records in heaven. "The books were opened....."

That should not be too hard for us to understand today. Virtually everything that happens in first world countries is recorded and saved somewhere. I do not believe that we are smarter than God.

So what is the real issue in this judgment?

Who has dominion? Is it an earthly imposter, or is it the Ancient of Days?

Will the trials, tribulations, and persecutions against God's people go on forever or will there be a stop, a reckoning somewhere down the line?

What is this power that is to be destroyed? The division of the Roman Empire made way for the rise of another power. The little horn of Daniel 7 and 8 represents the same power.

Let's look at some characteristics of this little horn power.

Daniel 7:21-26 (KJV)

²¹ I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

²² Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

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Briefly, it originated from the Roman beast.

It arose after the 10 horns.

It uprooted 3 of the horns.

It would be different from the other powers.

It was a persecuting power.

It attempted to change God's law.

It would speak against God, or commit blasphemy.

It would "think" to change God's laws.

Both horns, Daniel 7 and 8 were little horns.

It would be in ascendancy for 1260 years. Daniel 7 twice says 3 ½ times. We see this expressed in Revelation 11:2 and 13:5 as 42 months.

From the time that Justinian made the bishop of Rome head of all churches until Napoleons army took the pope captive on February 15, 1798 was 1260 years.

Not only was the pope taken captive, but the papacy lost thousands of acres of land, and much wealth.

²⁶ But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end

So the judgment sat, and the judgment judged the power that presumed to take the place of God in the world. And that power was destroyed.

We need to look at the concept of judgment in the Bible and the ancient near east.

Daniel here tells us that there was preparation for the judgment. I want to share it from the NLT.

Daniel 7:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire,

¹⁰ and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.

Thrones were put in place. The Ancient One sat on a fiery throne with blazing wheels.

From archaeology we have discovered that in Daniel's time, the king's throne would be moved to wherever he was working. If he was holding court, there was a raised area for the throne there. If he were acting in judicial capacity, his throne would be taken to where that was taking place. When the royal audience was over the throne would be taken to where the king would be doing business next.

Here in Heaven, we see a similar setting. We see a fiery portable throne that comes into the heavenly audience chamber. The fire that is described is the overwhelming glory of God. Fire is not only appropriate for the glory Daniel saw, but is also appropriate for the results of judgment. God's enemies are to eventually be destroyed by fire. A fire that comes from the Almighty that conducts judgment.

Another thing about this scene is that it is not static. There is movement. God is dynamically active. There is movement towards and preparation for judgment. That indicates that it takes place at a certain place in time.

We have the progression of kingdoms, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, pagan and papal. But the judgment is not convened during any of the kingdoms. It was to be conducted after 1798, when papal power was interrupted.

It is after 1798 that the judgment that we read of here is conducted.

Now we must recall some of Daniel 8 that we did not spend a lot of time on.

Daniel 8:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spoke, *How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?*

¹⁴ And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Daniel 8:14 gives more information on the time of the judgment.

Now here is where all of the themes of Daniel that we have discussed come together.

Nebuchadnezzar was used by God to bring judgment upon Judah. He did this by casting down or defiling, the sanctuary. Daniel and his friends over and over refused to be defiled by the culture around them.

Belshazzar defiled the vessels of the temple, and defied God in heaven. He was judged by God and judgment was carried out by the Medes and Persians.

Daniel prayed towards the sanctuary, and prayed that it would be restored. The princes of Persia tried to cast down Daniel, who was a faithful prince of both Darius and of God.

He was brought into judgment, and God delivered him. The princes were judged basically by their own actions. They did not have a word to say to the king. They were brought into judgment because of their treachery. Their judgment was swift and complete.

Now this beast/horn power is attempting to cast down God himself. It will be judged because it defiled the true worship of the true God. It thought to set up it's own sanctuary in place of the heavenly ministry of Christ. It's judgment is coming.

So now we have the background to put together all the time prophecies of Daniel 7, 8, and 9.

What Daniel was told about in Daniel 8, he is shown in Daniel 7. What he is told about in Daniel 8:14, he is shown in Daniel 7:9-14, 26. What he is told about in Daniel 7 gives an approximate date for the judgment, in Daniel 8:14 a more exact time is given. And Daniel 9 pinpoints the starting point.

All these visions work together to explain and expand on each other.

Lets look at the handouts.

First, Daniel 9 as it is the prophecy that gives a definite starting date. For us to go anywhere, we need to know where to start.

That point is Daniel 9:25

Daniel 9:25 (KJV)

²⁵ Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

The 2300 day prophecy is not given a starting point.

But as we read in Daniel 9:24 it says

Daniel 9:24 (KJV)

²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

If you look in a Hebrew dictionary you will see that the word "determined" comes from the phrase "to cut" or to cut off of.

Now we have two choices from which to cut off this 490 years. The first comes in Daniel 7, which designates a period of time for the beast power to rule. We have already seen that the beast power ruled from 538 to 1798. That time period can stand alone.

But the prophetic time period of the 2300 days cannot. We need chapter 9, the 490 year prophecy to help us understand the 2300 day/year prophecy.

Now you cannot cut off a larger piece from a smaller one. Right? So you have to cut off the 490 years from the 2300. And since the 2300 years do not have a designated starting point, and since the 490 years do, and the 490 years are cut off from the 2300, therefore it makes common sense that the 490 shows us the beginning of the vision, and is a sub-part of the 2300 day vision.

Now I know we probably all got confused with that.

Let's take it a step at a time.

1. Daniel 7 gives us a time prophecy of 2300 years from point undisclosed until the judgment.
2. Daniel 8 gives us a time prophecy with a definite starting point. This prophecy is cut off from something.
3. The only something that we have to cut off the 490 years from is the 2300 years.
4. Therefore the 490 and 2300 year prophecy start at the same time.

We saw how this 490 years point to Jesus' earthly ministry for us.

Let's review the charts for a minute.

That was in Daniel 9.

In Daniel 8, with the 2300 years we find the ending with Jesus taking on a special heavenly ministry.

In Daniel 7, Jesus is given the rulership over all. The scene, while a judgment scene, is also a declaration of his kingly authority.

We find that in

Daniel 7:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

¹⁴ And there was given him **dominion**, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his **dominion** *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

I don't know about you, but I am ready for King Jesus to have dominion in this world. We know that there will be great trouble before he assumes that reign, But he *is* coming.

Our gospel text is from the words of Jesus.

John 5:25 (KJV)

²⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.