

08. The Book of Daniel—7:9-28

(5/17/17)

Last week in our study in the book of Daniel we started looking at Daniel 7.

Before we continue looking at chapter seven—let me say one more time that the first six chapters of the Book of Daniel are historical and chronological —whereas the last six chapters are prophetic.

The dreams and visions recorded in chapters seven thru twelve all happen from the end of chapter 4 thru the end of chapter six, historically speaking.

And, as we mentioned last week, during the twenty-three years between the end of chapter 4 and the beginning of chapter 5—Daniel chapters 7 and 8 took place.

As we study thru this chapter, we're going to see that the dream that Daniel had which is recorded in chapter 7 is very similar to the dream Nebuchadnezzar had as recorded in chapter 2.

In fact these two dreams are essentially the same, incorporating different symbols to communicate the same basic message.

The main difference between them is that in chapter 2 the kingdoms of this earth are seen from man's perspective as a series of precious metals—starting with gold (the most precious) and declining down to the fourth kingdom made up of iron (non-precious but the strongest metal).

Whereas in chapter 7 they are seen thru the eyes of God as a series of vicious animals devouring one another.

The only real difference between the two dreams is that—chapter 7 introduces us to the “little horn”.

He is the key personage of the fifth kingdom (a confederacy of 10 nations) over which he will rise to power—not by force but given that power by the people of the world who will see him as a messianic figure and ‘savior of mankind’.

Of course, this ‘little horn’ that the world sees as their messiah, we know as the Antichrist—a deceiver and the ultimate false messiah who will be in power when Jesus, the true Messiah, returns to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

Daniel 7:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon [556 B.C.], Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. ² Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. ⁴ The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings [Babylonian Empire]. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. ⁵ And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear [Medo-Persian Empire]. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' ⁶ After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard [Greek Empire], which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong [Antichrist's Kingdom]. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸ I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

So once again, this ‘little horn’ is the Antichrist who rises out of the ten horns (nations/regions) as the leader of the final world empire before Jesus returns.

Daniel 7:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ "I watched till thrones were put in place [not ‘cast down’ as the KJV has it], **And the**

Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰ A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

Now, this is interesting to me, because when the apostle John recorded his vision of heaven in Revelation 4:4—he mentions some other thrones and those that sat on them—a group that Daniel doesn't mention—

Revelation 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Many commentators believe that these elders represent the Church.

Apparently, Daniel didn't see these elders which is why he doesn't mention them—they seem to have been 'hidden' from his sight.

This would be in keeping with what Paul said in Ephesian 3:5—that the Church was a mystery hidden from the OT saints.

The reference to the **Ancient of Days** is speaking of God the Father and not Jesus—verse 13 makes that clear.

One author said,

“ ‘Ancient of Days’ (Dan. 7:9, 13, 22) is a name for God that emphasizes His eternity; He is the God who had existed from eternity past, has planned all things, and is working out His plan. The description of God must not be taken literally, because God doesn't have a body, wear clothes, or grow white hair. These things are symbolic of His nature and character: He is eternal, holy, and sovereign. In Revelation 1:12–20, these same characteristics are applied to Jesus Christ, thus proving that He is the eternal Son of God.”

The description that **“His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire” (v.9)** is reminiscent of the description of God’s throne as seen thru the eyes of Ezekiel and recorded by him in Ezekiel chapter one.

The **“fire”** speaks of His holiness and judgment against sin—*“Our God is a consuming fire”* (Heb.12:29).

“A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him” (v.10)—is symbolic of God’s righteous judgment which is poured out upon the wicked.

The statement in v.10 that, **“A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him”** is also identical to John’s vision of God’s throne in Revelation 5—

Revelation 5:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

In fact, I believe Daniel 7:9-10 parallels Revelation 4 & 5—because it takes place *before* the Antichrist’s kingdom is destroyed.

“The court was seated, And the books were opened.” (v.10)

These books that are opened no doubt contain the crimes against God (violations of His law) that the nations of the world are guilty of—all of this is in preparation for God’s judgment to be poured out on this world as recorded in Rev. 6-19.

Daniel 7:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ **“I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was**

speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

This corresponds to Jesus Second Coming to the earth, as the Antichrist and his armies have gathered to make war with the Lord to keep Him from establishing His Kingdom.

No doubt the pompous words Daniel heard the Antichrist speaking have to do with him telling his troops not to worry, they will be victorious against Jesus and that He will never defeat them.

At this point we need to read the first part of Psalm 2—

Psalm 2:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Daniel 7:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

The Aramaic of v.12 (remember that Daniel used the Aramaic language from chapter 2:4 thru the end of chapter 7 since he was writing about Gentile history—so he uses the language of the Gentile world)—but the Aramaic for **“yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time”** could be translated:

Daniel 7:12 (HCSB)

¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their authority to rule was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time.

Okay, but what does that mean—how can the Antichrist’s kingdom be done away with when Jesus returns yet—the **‘rest of the beasts’** (the world empires that were absorbed into the Antichrist’s kingdom when he rose to power) have their dominion/authority removed but their lives extended for a while?

One historian explains it this way—

“The explanation is that their dominance ceased, but they continued to live because they were absorbed into the next empire. For example, Greece was conquered by Rome; and although Greek dominance came to an end, the nation continued to live by being absorbed into another one of the earthly kingdoms, the Roman Empire. But the fourth empire will be completely destroyed and replaced by a totally new world order, the kingdom of God.”

And, listen, that won’t happen immediately when Jesus returns.

Daniel 12:11-12 tell us that there will be a small gap of time between when Jesus returns to the earth and casts the Antichrist and False Prophet into the Lake of Fire and then His new kingdom—the Millennial Kingdom officially starts.

Until that time the nations of the earth (before the Lord judges them—Matt.25:31-46) will still remain—yet have no authority to rule any longer (could this be what v.12 is referring to?).

In fact, with Jesus' return to the earth at the Second Coming it will officially end what the Bible calls the “times of the Gentiles”.

Scholars have debated for a long time when this period called the ‘times of the Gentiles’ actually began (600 B.C.; 70 A.D. etc.).

We do know one thing for sure—Jerusalem *will* be ‘trampled by the Gentiles’ from the time Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, puts his image in the Holy of Holies and demands to be worshipped as God (mid-point of the Tribulation Period).

At that time he will take Jerusalem by force causing the Jews to flee for their lives.

From that time till Jesus returns, to end *the times of the Gentiles* will be 3 ½ years, 1260 days, forty-two months, or as Daniel describes it in chapters 7 and 12—“*a time, times and half a time*”.

Daniel 7:13 (NKJV)

¹³ "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One like the Son of Man* [Jesus], Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [God the Father], And they brought Him near before Him.

“**Son of Man**” is a familiar title for our Lord Jesus Christ; it is used eighty-two times in the Gospels—frequently by Jesus Himself (a ‘redemptive title’).

The statement that He is “**coming with the clouds of heaven**” is spoken of in numerous places in the N.T.—

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds [*not coming 'in' the clouds but 'with' the clouds*], and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [*the saints that have gone before us into heaven*], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Revelation 19:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. [*a 'cloud' of witnesses*]

“And they brought Him [Jesus] near before Him [the Father].” (v.13)

Here Jesus is presented before the Father’s throne and given dominion over all the nations of the world—just as the Father promised Him in eternity past as recorded in Psalm 2 and Isaiah 9 (and many other places)—

Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

This is the fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2—

Daniel 2:34-35 (NKJV)

³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the

gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain [*Jesus' Millennial Kingdom*] and filled the whole earth.

Unlike the previous four kingdoms, and the kingdom of Antichrist—the kingdom of Jesus Christ can never be removed or destroyed.

This is the kingdom that God had in mind when he told David that his throne would never end—

2 Samuel 7:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' "

It's true that the Millennial Kingdom is only a thousand years long—but Paul goes on to explain how Jesus reigns forever—

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. ²⁷ For "*He has put all things under His feet.*" But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

After the Millennium and the destruction of Satan (Rev. 20:7–10), the Lord Jesus will deliver "*the kingdom to God the Father*".

At that time Jesus will have defeated every enemy including death (Rev.20:14).

All of God's redemptive plan for mankind will have been accomplished and all the rebels will have been dealt with.

By that time, He will have abolished **all rule and all authority and power** of man on earth and all demonic hierarchy in heavenly or spirit realm (Eph.6:12).

One author comments—

“From the time of His incarnation until the time when He presents the Kingdom to the Father, Christ is in the role of a Servant, fulfilling His divine task as assigned by His Father.

After He has brought everything into subjection, He will hand the kingdom back to the Father. Creation will be brought back to God in a perfect condition. Having accomplished the work of redemption and restoration for which He became Man, He will retain the subordinate place that He took in Incarnation. The reign of Christ as Son of Man will then give way to the eternal kingdom in heaven—His reign as Son of God in heaven will continue forever.”

Daniel 7:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

Now, in verses 15 thru 28, Daniel asks one of the myriads of angels he had seen for help in understanding the vision—the rest of the chapter contains the angel’s interpretation of Daniel’s vision.

Daniel 7:15-22 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me. ¹⁶ I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷ 'Those great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings *which* arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.' ¹⁹ Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; ²⁰ and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows. ²¹ I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Revelation 13:5-7 (NKJV)

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints [*Tribulation saints*] and to overcome them... [*until Jesus returns to defeat the Antichrist*]

Daniel 7:23 (NKJV)

²³ "Thus he said: "The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.

This fourth beast corresponds to the fourth kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's dream—

Daniel 2:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others.

This fourth beast represents the Roman Empire—the fourth world empire after Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece.

As we have already pointed out from history—the Roman Empire was notorious for crushing its enemies—even as iron being the strongest metal of all can crush the others.

Now, as we said last time, here's where the two symbols of this fourth kingdom become a little confusing.

The ten toes made up of iron and clay are *connected* to the two legs of iron in the image of chapter two—but they are *separate* kingdoms (Roman Empire and the Antichrist's kingdom).

This is also true with the ten horns that are connected to the fourth beast in Daniel's vision—

Daniel 7:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

The fifth kingdom, under the Antichrist (*the horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows—v.20*) will in some way be connected to the fourth kingdom (Roman Empire)—some have suggested the fifth kingdom will be a resurrection of the fourth kingdom.

I believe the fourth kingdom is Rome, while the fifth kingdom (consisting of ten parts and yet still called the 'fourth kingdom' in Daniel 7) is speaking of Antichrist's kingdom (separate from the fourth kingdom and yet still connected to it) that will be in power right before Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom upon the earth.

Daniel 7:24-26 (NKJV)

²⁴ The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom [revival of the Roman Empire in the last days]. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones [they are nations—this will be the leader who will take charge of those nations], And shall subdue three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time* [3 ½ years, 42 months or 1260 days—last half of the Tribulation Period]. ²⁶ 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy *it* forever.

When it says that the Antichrist will intend to “**change times**”—I believe he's going to want to begin a new calendar that coincides with his rise to power and the fact that he's declared himself to be God (2Thess.2:4).

Just as we have dated human history using “B.C” (before Christ) and “A.D” (anno domini—Latin for ‘in the year of our Lord’)—the Antichrist will want to make himself the focal point of human history from that moment on.

Also, when it says he'll want to "**change law**"—it no doubt means he'll want to repeal and replace God's laws with his own laws.

Daniel 7:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions [earthly rulers and authorities] shall serve and obey Him.'

The Bride of Christ (Church) will reign with the Lord on His throne (2Tim.2:12; Rev.3:21; Rev.5:10).

Daniel 7:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ "This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."