



Shining in Babylon
Study Guide
Daniel 7

1. Read Daniel 7:1-8. Discuss the course of history and how these are descriptions of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Imperial Rome. Notice how the Anti-Christ is introduced in verse 8, as the 'little horn'. See also Revelation 13:1-2 to compare with Daniel's vision, and 1 John 4:3 to discuss the 'spirit of the antichrist'. What should our expectation be as Christians living under these world empires? Discuss.

2. Read Daniel 7:15-25. According to verse 25 (see also Daniel 12:7; Revelation 13:5; Daniel 9:24-27), the Anti-Christ will only be given authority to do harm for 3 ½ years at the end of the tribulation period. How anxious do you feel about current events? Do you feel like you need to fix the world, or can you accept that God has a plan and purposes in all of it? Discuss.

3. Read the following and discuss:

Daniel 7:9-12- How do you feel about the dominion of God over the 'beast' and the final judgment? What do you notice about God as the Judge? Does that give you assurance?

Daniel 7:13-14- How do you feel about Christ receiving dominion over the kingdom?

Daniel 7:26-27- How do you feel about receiving the dominion over the kingdom?

Do you ever feel like you have to fix the world? How does this passage allow you to rest in the sovereign purposes of God. Instead of seeing the glass 'half empty' can you see God preparing us for the wedding supper of the Lamb. Do you feel that you are ready for the rapture? How do you want to live in light of the return of Christ? Discuss.

Message Outline

Daniel 7

Big Idea: You Don't Need to Fix the World.

Daniel 1-6- Historical

Ch. 1- Daniel's Deportation

Ch. 2- Vision of Four Kingdoms

Ch. 3- Fiery Furnace

Ch. 4- Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony

Ch. 5- The Writing on the Wall

Ch. 6- Daniel and the Lion's Den

Daniel 7-12- Apocalyptic

Ch. 7- 1st year of Belshazzar (553 B.C.)

Ch. 8- 3rd year of Belshazzar (551 B.C.)

Ch. 9- 1st year of Darius (539 B.C.)

Ch. 11-12- 1st year of Darius (539 B.C.)

Ch. 10- 3rd year of Cyrus (537 B.C.)

I. The Four Beasts (v. 1-8)

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ²Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

I. The Four Beasts (v. 1-8)

⁴The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. ⁵And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

I. The Four Beasts (v. 1-8)

⁶After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

Rev. 17:12-13

¹²And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

I. The Four Beasts (v. 1-8)

⁸I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Revelation 13:1-2

¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.²And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

1 John 4:3

"...and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

II. The Interpretation (v. 15-25)

A. Reassurance (v. 15-18)

¹⁵"As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. ¹⁶I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

B. The Anti-Christ (v. 19-25)

¹⁹"Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, ²⁰and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. ²¹As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, ²²until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who

opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

B. The Anti-Christ (v. 19-25) *continued*

²³ "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. ²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

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III. The Dominion of God (v. 9-12; 13-14; 26-27)

⁹ "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹ "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

III. The Dominion of God Given to Christ (v. 9-12; 13-14; 26-27)

¹³ "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

¹⁴ And 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 one that shall not be destroyed.

Revelation 5:9

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

III. The Dominion of God Given to the Saints (v. 9-12; 13-14; 26-27)

²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the

saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

²⁸ "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

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