

Lecture #9

Daniel 7:15-28

Daniel did not know exactly what the prophetic vision of the beasts meant, so he went to God and asked God to give him a precise understanding and an accurate interpretation of the vision. The Word of God is only profitable when it is accurately understood. This is the passion Daniel had. Daniel was not content with any surface level understanding of God's Word.

NO MATTER HOW NEGATIVE THE PROPHETIC MESSAGE OF GOD MAY BE, THOSE WHO ARE RIGHT WITH GOD HAVE A DEEP DESIRE TO KNOW GOD'S WORD PRECISELY AND THEY ASK GOD TO GIVE THEM AN ACCURATE INTERPRETATION.

Daniel types are not content with a shallow understanding of anything. They want to know truth and they want to know with precision inspired truth.

Daniel 7:15-16 – Daniel desires to know the exact meaning of what he had seen.

Now I want you to carefully notice that the vision Daniel had seen left him "distressed" and "alarmed." He was mentally and emotionally shook by what he had seen. All of these beasts and visions of the end of the Gentile world left him drained.

The Hebrew word "distress" means Daniel was deeply grieving, and the word "alarm" means he was very disturbed. This vision was not comforting to Daniel. In fact, the word "spirit" indicates Daniel's entire personality was shaken by this vision. This was not spiritual truth that had a positive impact on Daniel.

Now notice what Daniel did while in this state—**verse 16**—he wants to know an exact interpretation of everything.

May I be so bold as to suggest that the thing that will bring people out of depression and grief and emotionally disturbing situations is a precise understanding of the Word of God. **When you find yourself mentally and emotionally shot—do what Daniel did; go to God and ask for a precise understanding of His Word and will. This is what will ultimately bring you out of depression. We must pray for wisdom if we are to accurately understand God's Word (Prov. 2:3).**

Daniel 7:17-22 – Daniel describes what he had seen.

(Sight #1) - Daniel saw four great beasts were four kings who arise from the earth prior to God's people receiving their kingdom. **7:17-18**

The Hebrew words "possess the kingdom" (**v. 18**) refer to a time when God's people will have authority and ownership of the earth.

Now we may observe in 7:3 the beasts arise from the sea and in **7:17** they arise from the earth. What this means is that they are Gentile powers that literally reign on earth. Daniel knew that Israel would one day have a kingdom, but prior to it there would be four main earthly Gentile powers who would dominate her.

(Sight #2) - Daniel saw that the fourth beast was very unique. **7:19**

The cruelest man in history will turn out to be this beast. It was the fourth beast that really caught Daniel's eye. He was unique in at least three ways:

1) He was different; 2) He was dreadful; 3) He was devouring. The fourth beast stood out to Daniel as a more ferocious and dominant power.

(Sight #3) - Daniel saw one horn totally different than the ten horns. **7:20-22**

Distinction #1 - The horn comes up at the same time the other ten are in existence. **7:20a**

These ten nations will stand side by side—a simultaneous reign and existence in the world.

There will be ten specific nations that will be revived and I think right now are in the process of being revived. These ten kings clearly coincide with Revelation 13:1; 17:12, which means they have not existed yet, but will. This will be the Roman Empire in its final revived stage.

Distinction #2 - The horn comes up when three horns fall. **7:20b**—he uproots three horns.

He will take charge of three nations as a dictator and apparently will appear to be just in what he does.

Distinction #3 - The horn has eyes. **7:20c**—he will look like a normal human leader.

He will be intelligent, charismatic and persuasive. He will talk peace, prosperity and plenty. He will be a great promoter and humanitarian leader, but he will be looking at things differently. He is satanic.

Distinction #4 - The horn makes great arrogant boasts. **7:20d**

The Apostle Paul made the same prediction in II Thessalonians 2:4 when he said the “man of lawlessness” will exalt himself above every so called god or object of worship. He will actually set himself in the Temple of God and say he is God.

Distinction #5 - The horn is larger than the other horns. **7:20e**

He first surfaces as a little horn (7:8), but ends up the largest horn to ever exist. This one will rule more than a country; he will rule the whole world.

Distinction #6 - The horn wages war with God's people and overpowers them. **7:21**

After the Rapture of the Church, many will believe on the Lord and be saved and in the first part of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will slay many (Revelation 6:9). In the second part of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will go on a rampage to destroy every Jew (Revelation 12:17). This will be a treacherous time to be connected to God. Zechariah informs us that only one-third of Jewish people in the world will survive this (Zechariah 13:8-9).

Distinction #7 - The horn wages war until God judges and gives His Kingdom to His people. **7:22**

We are a warring world. War is in the heart of people today. That will not change until God makes it change.

Daniel 7:23-27 – Daniel is given a heavenly interpretation of what he saw.

(Point #1) - The final person/power will devour the whole world. **7:23**

The first three beasts had limited geographical power, but the final one will control the world. He will crush those who oppose him. Notice in this verse, he is identified as a kingdom and in **verse 17** he is identified as a king. This indicates he will be a worldwide dictator.

(Point #2) - The final person/power will arise by subduing three kings. **7:24**

Notice the change in pronouns in this verse, the beast now becomes a “he.” He will surface by bringing three of the ten world powers under his authority. His initial rise to power will be marked by this. He starts out being a dictator over three nations and ends up being dictator of the world.

(Point #3) - The final person/power will speak out against God. **7:25a**

Revelation 13:5-6 says that this Antichrist will be blasphemous specifically for 42 months. He will speak out against God and against Jesus Christ.

(Point #4) - The final person/power will stamp out God’s people. **7:25b**

This is a worldwide effort to rid the world of God’s people—the Jews. Revelation says he is empowered by Satan and will pour out wrath against God’s people like a flood (Revelation 12:15-17).

(Point #5) - The final person/power will be the law of the world for 3½ years. **7:25c**

“Time” = 1 year; “times” = 2 years; “half a time” = ½ year. The total is 3 ½ years. He will introduce his own system of law. This refers to religious law and worship as well as political law. He will abandon all previous systems of government and laws. For 1,260 days and for 42 months (Revelation 12:6; 11:2; 13:5), this Antichrist will be the persecutor of Israel.

(Point #6) - The court of God will judge this beast and take away his power and destroy him. **7:26**

It is not political leaders who will bring peace to the world; it is God who will do it. It will be God in the Person of Jesus Christ who will come and destroy the power of the evil nations. It will be the second coming of Jesus Christ that will destroy the Antichrist and mean there will be no more wars ever.

(Point #7) - The sovereignty of God will give God’s people God’s Kingdom. **7:27**

No world government, no League of Nations, no NATO and no United Nations will ever give God’s people a kingdom. You will never see a political power go to bat for Israel to the extent that they start promoting giving Israel all her land and promote every nation in the world to honor Israel. It is God who will do it.

Daniel 7:28 – Daniel was alarmed and pale and silent about the prophetic revelation.

The study of biblical prophecy is not for fanatical speculation, but for sober reflection. The thought of the Antichrist, being able to so dominate Israel, left Daniel in this state. In the aftermath of this vision, Daniel's countenance and color changed. Now the Tribulation is scary business. Even to a man like Daniel who isn't afraid to be thrown into a den of lions. Not much intimidated him, but what he saw about the Antichrist did.

It was very troubling to Daniel and if you do not know Jesus Christ, this ought to be very troubling to you, because I believe we are nearing the beginning of the Great Tribulation and if it was scary to Daniel to just prophetically see it, think what it will be like for one who is in it. If you do not know Jesus Christ, you are headed right into this terrible time that Daniel saw. Why not believe right now on Jesus Christ and you will escape the wrath of God.

STUDY QUESTIONS – LECTURE #9

(Daniel 7:15-28)

1. What did Daniel do when he was mentally and emotionally shook by what he saw?

He went to god and asked for a precise understanding of His Word and will.

2. What are the seven unique features Daniel gives concerning the horn? 7:20-22

- A. The horn came up at the same time the other ten are in existence.
- B. The horn comes up when three horns fall.
- C. The horn has eyes.
- D. The horn makes arrogant boasts.
- E. The horn is larger than the other horns.
- F. The horn wages war with God's people and overpowers them.
- G. The horn wages war until God judges and gives His Kingdom to His people.

3. What does Daniel's response in verse 28 tell us about Biblical prophecy?

It is not for fanatical speculation, but for sober reflection.