

Daniel 7:1-16

January 26, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

God is sovereign. He is always on the throne, working things out for His purposes. Human kingdoms will rise and fall, but Jesus's kingdom is "an everlasting dominion that will not pass away" (Daniel 7:14) or be destroyed.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

🌱 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 7:1-2.

What stands out to you from this passage?

From what we know about dreams in the book of Daniel so far, what do you think God's purpose is here?

In Daniel's vision, he saw that "the four winds of heaven stirred up the great sea" (v.2). In other places in Scripture, like Isaiah 17:12-13, we see the sea represent the nations of the world. The winds of heaven are an interesting component here too, as Scripture contains several instances of God divinely working through wind.



Verse 3 introduces the four huge beasts, which we will explore more in the next section.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 7:3-8.

The four beasts actually represent the same thing that the colossal statue did in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Daniel 2:24-49; 7:15-27). Do you remember what that was?

How was Daniel’s vision different from Nebuchadnezzar’s?

The four beasts represent four kings and personify the kingdoms over which they rule. These are the same four kings represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in chapter 2. It is interesting that what Nebuchadnezzar saw as grand splendor through a human lens (outward power), Daniel saw as violent, dangerous creatures through God’s lens (the true, corrupt character of the leaders these beasts represented).

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 7:9-16.

What happens to the beasts in verses 11-12?

What do you think is happening starting in verse 13?

What do you know about the “Son of Man”?

Daniel records a glimpse into the courts of heaven starting in verse 9. Here he saw the eternal living God, the Ancient of Days. God, pure and holy and sovereign over all, is depicted on His throne. He is always sovereign, and Daniel chapter 7 continues to drive that point home.

In verses 11 and 12, God rendered judgment on the beasts, with the fourth beast being destroyed in the fire of judgement flowing from God’s throne. We again see God’s sovereignty in verse 12: He removed their dominion and allowed an extension of life for a time (see also Daniel 4:17).

Do you recognize who we are introduced to in verse 13? Jesus referred to Himself as the “Son of Man” more than any other title, using it eighty-one times in the Gospels. Jesus was given dominion (Matthew 28:18), glory, and an everlasting kingdom. Every people, from every nation, speaking every language should serve Him (Daniel 7:14) — and that includes us.

Our passage today ends with Daniel recording that he was deeply disturbed by what he had seen, so he approached someone standing nearby—presumably an angel—to ask for an explanation.



One thing Daniel's vision in chapter 7 makes abundantly clear is that God is sovereign. He is always on the throne, working things out for His purposes. Human kingdoms will rise and fall, but Jesus's kingdom is "an everlasting dominion that will not pass away" or be destroyed (v. 14). Yes, and amen.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What can we learn from today's passage about worldly power compared with God's power?

How can we encourage one another to trust in God's sovereignty over all things, even in the face of seemingly overwhelming earthly power?

How might you share about God's control over all things by sharing insights gained from this passage?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Praise God for his power and sovereignty. Thank Him for being in charge and having a divine plan, even when scary things are happening. Ask for His help fully trusting and surrendering things to Him and ask Him to give you understanding as you continue to approach the study of prophecy in Daniel.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

February 2, 2025 --- Daniel 7:17-28



COMMENTARY

Daniel 7:1-16

Daniel saw four beasts emerge in succession from the churning sea. The first resembled a lion but also had the wings of an eagle. As Daniel watched, the creature's wings were torn off, and it stood on two feet like a human. It also was given a heart like that of a person. The second beast resembled a bear with three ribs in its mouth. The third beast looked like a leopard with four wings and four heads. The fourth beast, the most terrifying of all, had iron teeth with which it ripped its victims to bits. It also possessed ten horns, three of which were uprooted before another horn that sprouted up among them. This other horn had human eyes and spoke arrogant words.

In this vision Daniel also saw God, called the "Ancient of Days," seated on His throne with thousands of His servants attending Him. His clothing and hair were white, and His throne, a flame of fire. Books were opened as God prepared to sit in judgment on the fourth beast. The beast, along with its boastful little horn, were cast into the fire and destroyed. A human figure, called "one like a son of man," then appeared in the clouds and approached the divine throne, where he was granted authority to rule the world.

