

Hello Friends. We are entering into the more prophetic portions of the book of Daniel. There is much we can learn about God Himself, about His master plan, and how we can trust and serve Him in our times. Chapter seven is a hub. Here, Daniel receives a vision of what is happening on earth and God's plans to deal with the evil empires.

Summary of the message: Human evil appears to thrive in the present, but Divine judgment will destroy the evil empires and the kingdom of the Son of Man will be exalted and given an eternal kingdom.

THE TALE OF THE TWO REALMS

Throughout the book of Daniel, there is God's realm, the divine realm, and the world's realm. Many movies and books have been produced as 'good versus evil' stories. What story/movie is an example? **Good vs. Evil books and movies are abundant. Everything from war movies, detectives, Star Wars, etc. all seem to have the same theme to them.**

LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

Chapters 7-12 continue with prophecy about the future. Chapters two and seven reveal future kingdoms and God's sovereignty over all kingdoms.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER SEVEN

(NOTE: This is apocalyptic literature that requires study and correlation with the rest of the Bible.)

- Daniel was distressed by a graphic vision that he doesn't understand.
 - Four beasts represent four evil empires that will conquer the known world.
 - A scene from the Throne room of God who will allow these for an appointed time, but God will eventually judge and take away their dominion.
 - There is a kingdom of God which will not pass away.
- An angel (see v. 10) told Daniel the meaning and interpretation.
 - Future evil pagan empires (kingdoms) will arise and continue the evil for a time.
 - There is a "highest one" whose kingdom is forever.
 - The fourth beast is followed by a little horn (kingdom? King? Empire?) that will persecute the saints until God's judgment.
 - At judgment, God will give possession of the kingdom to the saints.
 - The fourth kingdom is different in that it will oppose God, wear down the saints, and attempt to alter God's laws for a limited time.
 - But God will judge, remove dominion, destroy, and annihilate this one forever.
 - God will give the saints the greatness of kingdoms and His kingdom will be everlasting.
- Daniel was alarmed and kept the understanding private.

Read through chapter seven and consider the following questions.

What emotions or thoughts do you experience as you read through this story?

Opinion question. This chapter is a bit puzzling at first because of the apocalyptic language and style. As Daniel sees that these evil empires are going to continue, he is alarmed.

How are each of these kingdoms portrayed? Why these?

Each of these is portrayed as a beast, an evil, powerful, and predatory beast. The last is the worst and lasts the longest.

Each of them represent humans trying to rule humans. This was never God's intention; we were called to rule of the animals and cultivate the earth.

What are the differences between God's kingdom and worldly kingdoms?

God's kingdom is ruled by love, righteousness, justice, eternity, and wisdom. (Ancient of Days)

Worldly kingdoms are ruled by evil selfish people, injustice, misuse of power, temporary change, and completely lacking in love and the image of God.

How is God described in this chapter? What is new or surprising to you?

He is wise, patient, sovereign, loving, just, supremely powerful, and all-knowing – including the future.

From what you read, what is the main message of this story?

Summary of the message: Human evil appears to thrive in the present, but Divine judgment will destroy the evil empires and the kingdom of the Son of Man will be exalted and given an eternal kingdom.

Why do you think Daniel kept the matter to himself? (28)

He was in service to one of these earthly kingdoms. To share this would be offensive to the king, risk his influence and life without gain, and perhaps put at risk other Jews.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How would this dream and interpretation have been significant to Daniel's people?

The Jews would be hoping, praying, and looking for God to overcome evil in this world. (Much like us today.) For Daniel and the few that he informed, this would call them to live by faith with patience and trust in God and His eventual vindication and exaltation.

Have you had thoughts that evil is winning in our world? What evidences of evil empires are currently troubling to you?

I have had these thoughts so many times. My parents grew up with the evil of Germany and Japan. In addition, I, probably like you, have experienced my own selfish evil, the evil done to so many people that I know (my family have experienced rape, oppression, gossip, theft, violence, physical and sexual abuse by neighbors and others, etc.)

In our current world, we all read / know about evil empires that are harming God's people and others throughout the world.

Why would Daniel be alarmed by the dream?

The Bible doesn't say why he was alarmed, but I believe that the vision reveals that evil empires are going to be around for many more years and that his people are going to continue in persecution.

What does God want us to learn from this story?

In this order:

1. The character of God – who He is, His attributes. This is always job one of learning God's Word
2. The plans of God – that He knows the future, that He has power to control, and that He will one day judge evil and bring His family under His wing.
3. God knows of the evil empires and will deal with them, but for now, we need to trust in Him and His master plan, not live in fear and worry, and continue to be faithful.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Fear, anxiety, and worry are the opposite of faith. Since we know that God is in control and that His plans are always best, God wants us to trust Him instead of worrying. Walk through your days and ask, 'What am I worried about?' Then, ask God to help you end worry and walk through your days in full faith in our all powerful and good God.

PLEASE JOIN IN "GATHER25" THIS WEEK

Please join in prayer with the world through "Gather25." You can join us on campus this Friday evening (<https://www.trinityonline.org/event/23926107-2025-02-28-gather25-prayer-event/>) OR HOST YOUR OWN "GATHER25" GROUP through the following link:

<https://www.gather25.com/resources>

Love you all.

Steve