Choosing Faith Over Compromise

The Book of Daniel

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Lesson 4: Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts



INTRODUCTION

Daniel Chapter 7 marks a significant shift in the book of Daniel, moving from historical accounts to prophetic visions. This chapter is pivotal because it introduces apocalyptic imagery that speaks of future kingdoms and God's ultimate victory over evil. The vision Daniel receives is similar to Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 but presents the same themes in greater detail, with a focus on the coming of God's eternal kingdom and the Messiah. Fill in the "Kingdoms Represented" in table below, based on previous lessons.

IMAGE CHAPTER 2	BEASTS CHAPTER 7	KINGDOMS REPRESENTED
Head of fine gold	Like a lion with eagle's wings	
Chest and arms of silver	Like a bear	
Belly and Thighs of Brass	Like a leopard with four wings and four heads	
Legs of Iron, feet of iron and clay	Incomparable beast with ten horns and little horn	
Stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah and saints receive the kingdom	

Table 1: Futurist View of Daniel Chapter 7

READ CHAPTER *7*

The main idea: Daniel's vision depicts the coming of Israel's King to end all Gentile kingdoms and the establish His eternal kingdom (*7*:13, 14, 27; cf. 2:35, 45).

A. Introduction: Daniel's vision of the four beasts (*7*:1-3)

B. The four beasts described (*7*:4-8)

C. The vision of the Ancient of Days (*7*:9-10)

D. The judgment and destruction of the fourth beast (*7*:11-12)

E. The coming of the Son of Man (*7*:13-14)

F. Interpretation of the vision (*7*:15-28)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you suppose God used animals to describe prophetic events? Why didn't He simply describe the various empires as they were, "Babylonian Empire, Medo-Persian Empire," etc.?

2. In Daniel *7*, horns symbolize kings or ruling powers, especially their strength and authority. Verse 24 describes "another king" who is different from the previous "ten kings." What does this chapter tell you about this particular king?

3. The book of Daniel describes both fulfilled and unfulfilled prophecies. Why do you suppose many Christians tend to avoid studying prophetic passages?

APPLICATION: INTERPRETING PROPHECY

1. When reading the Bible, especially prophetic passages, be sure to "_____" of scripture what is says. This is often called "_____."

2. When reading the Bible avoid _____scripture what you want it to say. This is called "_____."

3. When reading prophetic scripture be sure to recognize _____ such as "like" or "as" which compares one thing to another. It does not mean something is exactly like another.