

FUTURE SEEN

DANIEL 7:1-14

1. What is one record or accomplishment you thought would not be broken or bettered? (Tallest man in the world—Robert Wadlow, 8 feet 11.1 inches—1940; World’s largest diamond—Premier Diamond Mine, Cullinan, South Africa, 3,106.75 carats—1905; The world record for holding the most world records—Ashrita Furman, since 1979 has set more than 600 Guinness World Records and currently holds at least 200.)
2. Anyone here hold a record or had a great accomplishment that has not been bettered?

We live in a temporal world. Only one thing is certain and that is the return of Jesus. In this session we will see how Daniel’s dream affirmed the eternal existence of God’s kingdom.

Our study of Daniel to this point has been chronological. Through chapter 6 Daniel is narrative in nature, now we shift to apocalyptic. One writer says “we move from story-telling to movie-watching.” The visions Daniel had and recorded occurred over a wide spectrum of time.

Read Daniel 7:28. Here we see his wisdom once again.

The main idea in the verses we study today: God reigns over all nations and will finally defeat his enemies through the coming kingdom of His Son, who took on flesh in Jesus Christ!

Daniel did the best he could to relate these beasts to known animals.

THE FIRST THREE BEASTS! Read Daniel 7:1-6

The “great sea” is symbolic of world kingdoms.

1. What did the “four winds of heaven” Daniel saw represent? (They represent God’s power. He gives dominion to whomever He chooses for His divine purposes.)
2. What did the first beast, a lion, symbolize? (The Babylonian Empire.)

Its wings were torn off, but it was given the heart of a man; this likely is an allusion to the humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar and the subsequent restoration of his sanity after seven years in Daniel 4.

3. What did the second beast, which looked like a bear, symbolize? (The Medo-Persian Empire.)

The bear being raised up on one side likely is a reference to Persia being the greater of the two empires. The three ribs allude to Babylon, Egypt, and Lydia, three major conquests of the Persians.

4. What did the third beast, which looked like a leopard, symbolize? (The Greek Empire under Alexander the Great.)

The leopard is one of the fastest land animals, and this leopard had four wings to make it even faster. Alexander’s conquests took place speedily, but after his untimely death his empire was divided into four parts, represented by the beast’s four heads.

5. What do you think is the purpose of biblical prophecy? (God is letting us know just who is ultimately in charge. It is also a warning to all people to be in right relationship with Him.)
6. Why do people place their hope in rulers and kingdoms for their security? (It is tangible, something they can see, hear, feel and easily interact with.)
7. What makes placing one’s trust in a ruler or leader so appealing?
8. How does knowing that God rules over all kingdoms of the world impact your life?
What is the relationship between being a good citizen and being a faithful follower of God?

THE FOURTH BEAST AND THE HORN! Read Dan. 7:7-8

1. How is the fourth beast different from the first three? (It evidently doesn’t look like any known animal.)
2. What did it create in Daniel and why? (This beast created fear in Daniel because it “was frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled with its feet whatever was left.”)

The 10 horns likely represent 10 kings that were set up to rule throughout the Roman Empire—for instance, King Herod.)

What about the small horn that uprooted three others and spoke arrogantly? Many times prophecies have short and long term meanings. Many Bible scholars see this small horn as the Antichrist which will ultimately be destroyed at the end of time.

3. How does arrogance put a person or group on a collision course with God?

4. What spiritual lessons can we learn from the little horn that spoke arrogantly? (God is in control and no one is in a position of power that God didn't put there for a reason and He will remove the prideful and arrogant.)

We should always be on our guard whenever a human leader speaks arrogantly and boastfully. They don't necessarily have to be the ultimate antichrist to be opposed to Jesus!

THE JUDGMENT! Read Dan. 7:9-14

1. How is this fifth kingdom different from the others we read about?

- The setting is in Heaven;
- There is one on the throne who is "the Ancient of Days!"
- His servants number ten thousand times ten thousand.
- Only the Son of Man was worthy to approach Him;
- His clothing signified holiness;
- His throne and the river of lava spoke of judgment;
- Court was convened and the books were opened.
- The dominion of the Son of Man will be "an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed!"

2. What is recorded in the books? (It is not specific here but when the books are opened at the Judgment Seat there will be the Lamb's Book of Life and the books that have recorded every thought, word or deed of every human being and we will stand and give account! See Ex 32:32; Dan. 12:1; Luke 10:20; Rev. 20:12.)

For those whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life there will be a blank page for their name in the book of sins because Christ's righteousness cleansed us from ALL our sin, overt or covert. Those who do not depend on Christ for their salvation will be judged "according to their works." Since all have sinned, and the wages of sin is death, they will all receive the wages they earned, eternal death.

The Ancient of Days is the timeless One!

3. How does the dream shared by Daniel give hope for eternity? (There is hope for God's people in every age because the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man, God the Father and God the Son, have everything under control.)

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE!

1. What are the dangers of ignoring God's promises about Jesus' return? (Matt. 24:36 tells us that Christ will return, gather His elect and judge the world. Be ready!)

Scripture is clear that before the return of Jesus, things will be bad for the people on earth. But Scripture is just as clear that when Christ returns, He will establish a kingdom that will last forever, and we will live with Him eternally.

2. How do we prepare for Christ second coming?

3. How can we help others trust God is all things?

Think for a moment about your own level of anxiety about the current state of the world, nation and personal life.

Pray for God's peace to replace all your fear about current events.