

Daniel 7:13-14

An Everlasting Dominion

Text: Daniel 7

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Daniel showed that the Messiah would establish an eternal kingdom...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. Daniel prophesied during the captivity of Judah in the land of Babylon.
- B. He was taken to Babylon with the first group of captives and remained in the courts of Babylon throughout the captivity.
- C. The name Daniel means, “God is my judge” or “God will judge.”
- D. In chapter 2, Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream having to do with four world empires - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- E. He revealed that during the days of the Roman Empire, God would establish His kingdom.
- F. It would infiltrate and conquer the kingdoms of men.
- G. Having done so, God’s kingdom would never be defeated or overtaken by others.

II. THE DREAM OF DANIEL (DANIEL 7:1-8)

- A. In this dream, the same four world empires are revealed symbolically as animals.
 1. Babylon was represented by a lion with the wings of an eagle.
 2. Medo-Persia was pictured as a bear with three ribs in its mouth.
 3. Greece was presented as a leopard with four heads and four wings.
 4. Rome was symbolized as a unique, diverse, dreadful, terrible, extremely strong beast with iron teeth and ten horns.
- B. Each of these beasts represented a world power that would arise from the troubled sea of humanity and would be used by God to accomplish His will.

III. THE ANCIENT OF DAYS (DANIEL 7:9-14)

- A. As his vision continued, Daniel saw that the thrones were cast down.
- B. He was present in the judgment hall as God judged the nations of the world.
- C. He also saw another throne and sitting upon it was God Himself.
 1. God is called the “Ancient of days” to indicate His eternal nature.
 - a. The kingdoms of men would rise and fall, but God was present before their rise and would still exist after their fall.

Prophecy of Jesus

- b. Because He is eternal, God has the authority to judge the kingdoms of men.
 2. Notice that Daniel did not see God, but a representation of Him in a vision.
 3. Here, God was symbolically manifested as an aged and honorable Judge.
 4. His white garments and his white hair both symbolized His purity and righteousness in judgment.
 5. His throne sat upon wheels and both it and they were made of fire (cf. Ezekiel 1:13-21).
 - a. The fire is symbolic of God's judgment – a judging fire – that is both purifying and final.
 - b. The wheels remind us that God is omnipresent – able to always be in all places.
 6. Daniel also saw that a fiery stream flowed from before God's throne – representing the righteous anger and judgment of God (cf. (Deuteronomy 4:24; Psalm 97:3; Hebrews 12:29).
 7. Then, Daniel saw that the books were opened so that the judgment could begin.
 - a. The picture is of court being called to session and the evidence presented.
 - b. The books were the charges brought against the nations and the record of their deeds.
 - c. No doubt, God's law was also included in the books (cf. Rev. 20:12).
- D. Daniel was able to witness the complete destruction of the fourth beast, of which the little horn was a part. (This destruction is detailed in Revelation 19:19-20.)
- E. As for the other three nations (beasts), they would no longer have dominion but would continue to exist for the time God had appointed (cf. Acts 17:26).
- F. Then, Daniel saw the Messiah – the Son of man – as He ascended to the Father in Heaven.
1. While Jesus was on the earth, He preached that the kingdom was at hand (Matthew 4:17).
 2. This was the “good news” of the kingdom (Matthew 4:23).
 3. His doctrine was the law for His coming kingdom (Matthew 5 – 7; cf. 5:21-22).
 4. However, the kingdom was not yet established (Matthew 11:11-13; 12:25-28; 16:18-19, 28; Mark 15:43; Luke 16:16; etc.).
 5. So, in preparing people for His kingdom, Jesus emphasized that it was a spiritual kingdom (Matthew 19:12-14, 23-26; 20:21-22; 21:28-32, 43; 23:13; John 3:3; 18:36).
 6. When He died on the cross, Jesus paid the purchase price for the kingdom (Acts 20:28).
 7. In His resurrection from the dead, Jesus procured victory for the kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:20-24).
 8. When He ascended back to the Father in Heaven, Jesus received authority to rule over His kingdom (Luke 19:11-15).
 - a. Jesus returned as a conquering hero – valiant in battle and victorious over His enemies (Psalm 24:7-10).
 - b. However, His battles and victory were spiritual.
 - c. In other words, the kingdom of Christ was not founded in the same way as the kingdoms of men – by war, bloodshed, and violence (except for His own sacrificial death).
 - d. Thus, the ascension of Jesus is essential to the establishment of the church (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11).
 9. Finally, on the Day of Pentecost, the kingdom came into existence (Acts 2; cf. Acts 8:12; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:9).
- G. The saints of God would take the kingdom and possess it forever (7:18; cf. Luke 12:32).