

The Main Point Of The Book of Daniel

I. Review of Daniel’s Night Visions

- a. In **Daniel 7**, Daniel writes of a dream and night visions that he had involving four terrifying beasts. The context helps us to understand that these four beasts are a recapitulation of the four empires mentioned in **Daniel 2**. **Daniel 7** gives us a different perspective of those empires and gives more details related to the fourth empire. One of those details given in **Daniel 7** is that the Antichrist will emerge from the revived fourth empire (Islamic Caliphate).

(Daniel 7:2-3 NASB) *“Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another”*

- b. Daniel’s Vision ends with a scene that encompasses the apex of the book Daniel, that is, Jesus receiving His everlasting kingdom. Ancient authors used a literary structure called a chiasm that put the most profound point at the center of the message. **Daniel 7** includes a chiasm within a chiasm and clearly lays out that the main point of the entire book of Daniel is to highlight the Son of Man’s everlasting dominion among His people (**Daniel 7:13-14**).

II. The Ancient of Days

(Daniel 7:9-10a NASB) *I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. 10a A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were serving Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;”*

- a. The Ancient of Days a term Daniel uses to describe The Father. Daniel saw Him in anthropomorphic form sitting on His seat/throne. The Ancient of Days’ seat is in the midst of other “thrones” that have been set up as a “*court to convene for judgment*” (**vv. 10; 26**). Daniel is seeing God preparing to judge the nations of the earth and specifically, 4th Beast Empire. The descriptions Daniel uses to describe His form reveal characteristics related to God’s righteous judgment.
- b. His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool – His white garments speak of His righteous acts (**Revelation 19:8**), and His white hair speaks of pure wisdom. The Father is all together righteous, pure, and perfectly wise in his judgments. Those seated on the other thrones, will agree with the judgment of God at the end of this age and into the next.
- c. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire – God’s throne is the governmental center of the entire universe, the fact that it’s ablaze with flames speaks to the refining nature and judgment of God. His throne has wheels that are a burning fire, speaking to the swiftness and omnipresence of God related to His true and righteous judgments.

(1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 NASB) *“For after all it is only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified among His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—because our testimony to you was believed.”*

- d. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him – This river of fire speaks to God’s everflowing righteous judgment. In **Revelation 15**, John saw a sea of glass mixed with fire before the throne. In the age to come, saints will gather together on this sea of glass mixed with fire, to abide in

God's righteous judgment. Perhaps this is the same fire that flows to the lake of fire for eternal judgment (*Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:8*).

(Revelation 15:2 NASB) "And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who were victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God."

(Isaiah 43:2 NASB) "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you."

- e. Thousands upon thousands were serving (ministering to) Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him – Multitudes of angels and saints will minister (agree with God) to God as He executes righteous judgment on the earth.

III. The Judgment of the Beast

(Daniel 10b – 11 NASB) "10b the court convened, and the books were opened. 11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn [antichrist] was speaking; I kept looking until the beast [antichrist & his empire] was killed, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire."

- a. The Antichrist will speak great boasts and wage war with the saints. However there will be an appointed time of judgment for the Antichrist Empire which will result in His entire Empire being thrown into burning fire while the "saints of the Highest One take possession of the kingdom" (*Daniel 7:21-22*).

(Daniel 7:11 NASB) "Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was killed, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire."

- b. At His second coming, Jesus will judge the Beast and the leaders of His empire by throwing them into the lake of fire. After the beast is judged a 45-day "transitional period" before the Millennium (*Daniel 12:12*), will take place where "the rest" (*Revelation 19:21*), are judged by Jesus.

(Revelation 19:19-21 NASB) "And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh."

IV. The Glorious Son of Man & His Everlasting Kingdom

(Daniel 7:13-14 NASB) "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom, So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."

- a. At the center of his book, Daniel highlights the main theme of his writings by describing the vision of Jesus, the Son of Man, being given everlasting dominion, honor, and a kingdom upon the earth. The Ancient of Days' global justice plan to is give His Son the nations as an inheritance. Within these two verses is the "gospel of the kingdom" that Jesus preached and exercised during His earthly ministry and is the same gospel that will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth before the return of Jesus.

(Psalm 2:7-9 NASB) “I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have fathered You. 8 Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”

(Matthew 24:14 NASB) “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

- b. Jesus intentionally used the term “Son of Man” to describe himself 78 times in the Gospels, and his audience would have understood this term to be a reference to the book of Daniel, which used this term as a reference to the Messiah. This is the term that Jesus used when the high priest asked if He was the Messiah, and the same term Stephen used to describe Jesus before being martyred.

(Matthew 26:63-64 NASB) “And the high priest said to Him, “I place You under oath by the living God, to tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

(Acts 7:56-58 NASB) “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57 But they shouted with loud voices, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one mind. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him”

- i. Daniel used the explanation “one like a son of man” to explain that he saw a divine figure who he saw approaching the Ancient of Days had the appearance of man. It was surprising to Daniel, because no man would have been understood to be worthy/able to approach God’s throne with confidence as the Son of Man.
 - ii. The fact that Daniel saw the Son of Man “with the clouds” only further proves the deity of the Son of Man. In multiple places, the Old Testament depicts God riding on the clouds (***Deuteronomy 33:26; Psalm 68:32-33; Psalm 104:1-4***). The New Testament also depicts the return of Jesus with Him coming on the clouds (***Matthew 24:30; Matthew 26:64; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 1:7***).
- c. The Ancient of Days will overthrow the wicked governments of the earth and give to the Son of Man an everlasting kingdom and dominion in every people, nation, and tongue. Despite the challenges the church will face from the Antichrist and his Empire at the end of the age, while in the midst of severe pressure and persecution, her hope will be anchored in the promise that Jesus will reign over all the kingdoms of the earth.

(Daniel 7:21-22 NASB) “I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.”

- d. There are real leadership dynamics to Jesus’ sovereign reign. In his kindness, He will institute a perfect governmental system that involves real humans having governmental authority and influence throughout the earth. Our role for eternity will be to function as His Kingdom and priests that minister to Him night and day. Jesus’ eternal calling is to rule the nations and we align ourselves with his calling we discover our function under his leadership.

(Daniel 7:27 NASB) “Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the empires will serve and obey Him.”

(Revelation 5:8-10 NASB) “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. 10 You have made them into a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”