Daniel’s Great Vision
Daniel 7

- Vision on Earth (7:1-8)
- Vision in Heaven (7:9-14)
- Vision Interpreted (7:15-28)

Lesson Goal: To encourage believers to remember that God’s plan for the future is firmly in place and His purposes will be accomplished.
### Daniel in Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nebuchadnezzar’s Reign</th>
<th>Nabonidus Rules</th>
<th>Belshazzar as Co-regent</th>
<th>Babylon Falls to Medo-Persia</th>
<th>1st year of Cyrus. First exiles return to Judah.</th>
<th>Daniel’s Ministry ends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>605-562 B.C.</td>
<td>556-539</td>
<td>553-539</td>
<td>October 539</td>
<td>March 538</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Chapters 1-4**: Captivity and interpretation of dreams and visions
- **Chapter 7**: Vision of the 4 Beasts
- **Chapter 5**: Handwriting on the Wall
- **Chapter 6**: Daniel in the lions’ den
- **Chapters 10-12**: Daniel’s Prayers and Visions about Israel
- **Chapter 8**: Vision of the ram and the goat
- **Chapter 9**: Prophecy of 70 Weeks

*2010* Daniel: The Times of the Gentiles
Prophetic Views

- **Amillenialism:** Belief that the present church age will continue until Christ’s return (binding of Satan in Revelation 20 being fulfilled during the present Church Age).

- **Historic Premillennialism:** Belief that the Church will go through the tribulation period and the thousand year reign of Christ will begin.

- **Dispensational Premillennialism:** Belief that Israel and the Church are two separate peoples of God, the rapture of the Church before the Great Tribulation, and God fulfilling His promises to Israel through the thousand year earthly reign of Christ.

Source: Beth Moore’s Study on “Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy

2010 Daniel: The Times of the Gentiles
The Coming Kingdom of Christ
(Dispensational Premillennialism View)

First Coming of Christ

Rapture of Believers
I Thess 4:16-17; Rev 3:10
(Jesus comes for the Church)
Rom 14:9-10; 1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10;
Judgment Seat of Christ

Second Coming of Christ
(Jesus comes with the Church)

Great White Throne Judgment
Rev 20:11-15

Church Age
Tribulation
Millennial Kingdom
Eternity

7 Years
Revolution 6-19
(Jesus judges the World)
7 Seals
7 Trumpets
7 Bowls

1,000 Years
Rev 20:1-6
(Jesus rules the World)

Source: “What in the World is Going On?”, Dr. David Jeremiah

2010 Daniel: The Times of the Gentiles
I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)
“There may be truth to the idea that the image with its glittering metals portrays the world’s kingdoms from humanity’s viewpoint-impressive and great, whereas the beasts depict these earthly kingdoms from God’s perspective-vicious and destructive.”

New American Commentary
I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)

First Beast: Babylon (v4)
Winged lions guarded the gates of the royal palaces of Babylon. Scripture also gives us references to both Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon as both an eagle (Jer 49:22; Lam 4:19; Ezekiel 17:3) and a lion (Jer 4:7; 49:19; 50:17,44)
I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)

Second Beast: Medo Persia (v5)

The fact that the bear was *raised up on one side* represents the fact that the Persians were the dominant force in the kingdom over the Medes. The *three ribs* most likely point to key victories of the Medo-Persians over Lydia (546 B.C.), Babylon (539) and Egypt (525).
I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)

Third Beast: Greece (v6)

The leopard is known as a swift, cunning, cruel and blood thirsty animal.

This represents the exceeding sleekness, speed, and power of Greece under Alexander the Great.

The four heads represent the fact that after Alexander’s death his kingdom was divided among his four generals who ruled over Macedonia, Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt (Daniel 8:8).
I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)

Fourth Beast: Rome (v7)
Iron represents imperialistic, cruel materialism of the Roman Empire. Roman dominion fell apart due to internal corruption in A.D. 476. It was not conquered by an outside force but it lived on in a divided status (Europe). However, it will be revived and return to great unified strength near the time of Christ’s Second Coming. At that time it will be comprised of the ten parts confederation under kings.
### I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)

**Correlation of Dreams and Visions in Daniel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times of the Gentiles</th>
<th>Image Chapter 2</th>
<th>Beasts Chapter 7</th>
<th>Beasts Chapter 8</th>
<th>Kingdoms Presented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of fine gold</td>
<td>Like a lion with eagle’s wings</td>
<td></td>
<td>Babylon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest and Arms of silver</td>
<td>Like a bear</td>
<td>Ram with two horns</td>
<td>Medo-Persia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belly and thighs of bronze</td>
<td>Like a leopard with four wings and four heads</td>
<td>Male goat with horn, four horns, and little horn</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay</td>
<td>Incomparable beast with ten horns and little horn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone that becomes a great mountain</td>
<td>Messiah and saints receive the kingdom</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kingdom of God</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** MacArthur Bible Commentary

2010

*Daniel: The Times of the Gentiles*
I. Vision on Earth (Daniel 7:1-8)

- **Principle:** God is in control of the kingdoms of men.
  - “O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.” - Isaiah 25:1

- **Application:** What encouragement do you receive from knowing God is in full control of history?
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

Who is the Ancient of Days?

- The *Everlasting God* (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 43:10)

- The *Sovereign Judge* of the universe (Psalm 96:11-13)

- The One *Worthy of all Worship* (Revelation 5:11)
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)
What are some of God’s Books?

- The Book of Tears (Psalm 56:8)
- The Book of Remembrance (Malachi 3:16)
- The Book of Deeds (Rev 20:12-13)
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Revelation 20:11-12
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

The Future of the World Empires

1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 13:1-2
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

Who is this Son of Man?

- This is the Messiah (Daniel 9:25-26) and it points to Jesus Christ.

- “Son of Man” was Jesus’ favorite title for Himself and this term was used at least 80 times in the Gospels (Matt 24:30; 26:64).

- He comes in the clouds of heaven (Matthew 24:30; Matthew 26:64; Mark 13:26; Mark 14:62; Luke 21:27; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 1:13; Revelation 14:14).
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

Who is this Son of Man?

And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

Mark 14:62
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

What does the Son of Man receive?

Complete authority over the earth. (Matthew 28:18; John 3:35; 1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:20-22)

20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, Ephesians 1:20-22
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

What does the Son of Man receive?

Complete authority over the people of the earth. (Psalm 72:11; Psalm 102:22; Phil 2:9-11)

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil 2:9-11
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

What does the Son of Man receive?

Everlasting Dominion and Kingdom.

(Micah 4:7; Luke 1:33; Heb 12:28)

I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever.

Micah 4:7
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

Why is the Son of Man exalted?

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation." 10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Rev 5:9-10
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

“We cannot leave Daniel 7 without attention to the picture of hope in the midst of chaos. A ‘son of man’ rides a cloud to the rescue of those who are oppressed by the beastly human kingdoms... Only God rides the ethereal war chariot... Jesus is the divine warrior who will defeat the beast, the forces of evil at the end of time.”

Dr. Tremper Longman III
II. Vision in Heaven (Daniel 7:9-14)

- Principle: The kingdoms of men will give way to the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” - Revelation 11:15

- Application: How are you encouraged by knowing that Jesus Christ is Lord of all?
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

The spirit of antichrist

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

I John 2:18,22
### III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overtakes 3 of the 10 horns (v8, 24)</td>
<td>Will lead a rebellion against God (v3)</td>
<td>Has 10 horns (v1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is human and prideful (v8)</td>
<td>He is doomed for destruction (v3)</td>
<td>Controlled by Satan (v2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages war with the saints and overpowers them for 3.5 years (v21, 25)</td>
<td>Oppose God; Exalt himself over God (v4)</td>
<td>Received a fatal wound that was then healed (v3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He will be slain and destroyed in burning fire (v11, 26)</td>
<td>Set himself up in God’s Temple, Proclaim to be God (v4)</td>
<td>Will be followed by the whole world (v3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Power of Lawlessness at work (v7)</td>
<td>Will utter blasphemous words and have control for 42 months (v5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will be overthrown by Christ (v8)</td>
<td>Worshiped by the whole world (v8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Controlled by Satan (v9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deceives those who reject truth (v10)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

Characteristics of the Antichrist

“I believe he will be a Gentile (Rev 13:1) emerging from a reunited Roman Empire (Dan 7:8; 9:26) who is an intellectual genius (Dan 8:23), an oratorical genius (Dan 11:36), a political genius (Rev 17:11-12), a commercial genius (Dan 11:43; Rev 13:16-17), a military genius (Rev 6:2; 13:2), and a religious genius (2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:8)”

Beth Moore
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)  

The Persecution of the Saints

5 There was given to him a *mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies*, and authority to act for *forty-two months* was given to him.

6 And he opened his mouth in *blasphemies against God*, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

7 It was also given to him to *make war with the saints and to overcome them*, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Rev 13:5-7
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

The Return of the King

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Rev 19:11-13
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

The Return of the King

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Rev 19:14-16
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

“When you see the Son in the air, when you see Him coming in the heavens, that’s the sign that He is back. The Bible says He’ll come in a blaze of glory—the brilliant Son of God lighting up this darkened world...”

Dr. David Jeremiah
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

The Fall of the Little Horn

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.

Rev 19:20
“Jesus is coming again, but He will do so in two distinct phases: first the Rapture, in which He comes in the air for His church; and second the Glorious Appearing in which He comes to earth to set up His one-thousand-year kingdom.”

Dr. Tim LaHaye
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

The Second Coming of Christ: Two Stages

“The Second Coming of Christ will be in two phases: First, the Rapture of the Church will remove all believers before the Tribulation, and second, the Second Advent which takes place predictably at the end of the seven years of Tribulation.”

Dr. David Jeremiah
### III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

**The Second Coming of Christ: Two Stages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 1: Rapture of the Church</th>
<th>Stage 2: Glorious Appearing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Christ comes <em>for</em> His own.</td>
<td>1. Christ comes in the air <em>with</em> His own to earth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Believers taken up.</td>
<td>2. No one taken up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. No judgment on earth.</td>
<td>3. Christ judges the inhabitants of the earth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Imminent; could happen now.</td>
<td>4. Can’t occur for at least 7 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. For believers only.</td>
<td>5. Affects all mankind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Occurs before the day of wrath.</td>
<td>6. Occurs immediately after the Tribulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The Judgment Seat of Christ.</td>
<td>7. No time or place for the Judgment Seat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Tribulation begins.</td>
<td>8. One-thousand year kingdom of Christ begins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: The Merciful God of Prophecy (Dr. Tim LaHaye)*

2010  
Daniel: The Times of the Gentiles
Why is the Church to be kept from the Tribulation?

- The Tribulation is a time of wrath and judgment on the earth. *(Jer 30:7; Dan 12:1; Isa 61:2)*

- Scripture says the believers will be kept from wrath. *(Rom 8:1; 1 Thess 1:10; 5:9-10)*

- Christ promised to come back for His own so we could be with Him forever. *(John 14:3; 1 Thess 4:13-17)*
III. Vision Interpreted (Daniel 7:15-28)

- **Principle:** God’s people will receive the eternal kingdom won for them by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
  - “And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.” - Revelation 22:5

- **Application:** How are you encouraged by the knowledge that God’s plan for His people is coming together?
Conclusion: So What?

What We Know

- God’s Word is Truth (John 17:17)

- God’s Plan for the Ages will be accomplished (Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:9-10)

- God’s People will overcome (John 16:33)

“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 dominions will serve and obey Him.” - Daniel 7:27
Conclusion: So What?

What We Should Do

- Watch for His Coming: “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.” (Matthew 25:13)

- Occupy until He Comes: And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' (Luke 19:13)