

Dan. 7:9-14 (LD 52, Q/A 128) “Kingdom, Power and Glory”

For the Children: When you study history you learn about many great and mighty rulers, and their many great and mighty kingdoms – the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Chinese and others; Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s Russia; the British Empire, the power of the USA; and so on. Even if you added all the power and glory of these empires together, it would still be nothing compared to the power and glory of the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom. He rules over all the others and judges them so that one-by-one they become weak and fall. His Kingdom will cover all the world and it will last forever. **Questions:** Should we be scared of those who hate God? What makes God the perfect Judge? What will happen to all the nations when Jesus returns?

Introduction:

First Point: The Ancient of Days

- 1) His Character: That God is the “Ancient of Days” speaks of His wisdom, majesty, dignity and eternity. White hair and clothes implies purity. He is perfectly qualified to judge the nations who oppose Him and His people, as well as to rule the world
- 2) His Throne: The lesser thrones (of angels or saints, or both) symbolize those whom God has appointed to assist Him in His judgement. God’s throne is ablaze and a river of fire comes out from before Him – indicating judgement. The fiery wheels of His throne indicate the fact that He judges everywhere
- 3) His Attendants: The myriad attendants – angels and/or saints – are standing ready to carry out His will at a moment’s notice. All this speaks of true power and glory, in contrast to the kingdoms of the world/Satan that are passing and under His judgement. This description gives us confidence in all our prayers, for God is the all-powerful King – which is why the Lord’s Prayer draws upon Dan. 7:14

Second Point: The Court in Session

- 1) Books Opened: The heavenly court begins to sit in session in the vision. The “books are opened.” These could be the “Book of Life” – the names of all the elect (Phlp. 4:3, Rev. 20:15); and/or the record of deeds of men, by which they are judged (Rev. 10:12). Nothing is hidden when these books are opened, at either the national or personal level
- 2) Dominion Stripped: The result of this judgement is that the first 3 beasts/kingdoms from earlier in the chapter are stripped of all their dominion – though they retain some national existence for as long as the Lord has appointed. These nations – Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece – have their day, but eventually they all fall, as the Lord has judged
- 3) Judgement Rendered: The 4th beast/kingdom – probably Rome - the most powerful, vicious and hostile to God, is completely destroyed by His judgement. Even the strongest cannot stand against Him

Third Point: The Son of Man Coming

- 1) The Messiah Comes: The Messiah is also involved in God’s judgements. He is man – the Son of Man – but also God. His “coming” is seen in the NT to involve 2 phases. This term, “the Son of Man coming” is applied to Christ in the NT, for He is the promised Messiah (Mt. 24:30; 26:64)
- 2) With the Clouds: Christ’s coming “on/with the clouds” is a symbol of His/God’s glory (as per Ex. 19:9) and judgement (as per Nah. 1:3; Mt. 24:30)
- 3) His Presentation to the Father: The dignity of the Son of Man is seen in His “royal audience” with the Ancient of Days – perhaps after the completion of His work on earth
- 4) Given All Authority: As a reward for completing that work, He is given all dominion, glory and a kingdom. See Mt. 28:18, Rev. 12:10. He causes the kingdom of heaven to break into this world. Satan’s kingdom remains alongside it until Christ returns. Then His dominion will be the only one left standing – since only God deserves all praise forever. We show our acceptance of this kingdom by trust, obedience, service, praise, resistance to those opposed to the King

Conclusion: