

The Book of Daniel (Chapter 7:9-28)

5-8-19

1. In verses 9 and 10 a court is convened - and the sentence of judgment upon the little horn and his empire is carried out.
2. There is an important contrast here. In verse 7-8 the Antichrist is blaspheming the God of heaven, but in verse 9-10 God is shown sitting upon His throne, calmly preparing for the day of judgment.
3. There are 3 major points that are critical to the understanding of verses 9-14.
4. In verses 9-10 Daniel has a vision of heaven at the time of final judgment on the nations.
5. Next - in verses 11-12 the little horn representing the last ruler of the times of the Gentiles is destroyed and with it his empire.
6. Then - the fifth kingdom - the kingdom of the Son of man who comes with the clouds of heaven is brought in, beginning the everlasting dominion of God.
7. The scene now unfolds before Daniel's eyes as the "Ancient of Days" (the eternal God) takes His seat upon the throne and exercises His prerogative as the sovereign Judge of the universe.
8. Clothing worn by the "Ancient of Days" was "white as snow," symbolizing the absolute moral purity of the divine Judge.
9. God's throne was "flaming with fire" and "its wheels were all ablaze."
10. "Fire" is commonly a symbol of judgment, and God's throne being engulfed in flames signifies the wrath of God that is here being poured out upon the wicked.
11. The "wheels" on a throne - God sitting upon a chariot-throne with wheels is seen in other passages. (Ezekiel 1 and 10)
12. The "river of fire" coming from the throne describes God's judgment as being poured out upon the wicked, particularly upon the kingdom of the little horn and the beast when Christ returns.
13. In verses 11-12 Daniel's attention was now directed toward the horn with the eyes and big mouth.
14. Daniel looked intently to see what would happen. At last judgment fell.
15. The slaying of the beast indicates that the evil empire will be totally annihilated and its leader judged.
16. The little horn - seen spewing out venom toward the Almighty - is silenced forever.
17. Since both the little horn and his empire are symbolized by the "beast" figure, both the empire and its leader are judged when "the beast is slain."
18. The empire being burned describes its utter destruction.

19. The other beasts, namely, the first three empires, had their authority taken away but were allowed to continue (“length of life was given to them”) “for a period of time.”
20. For example, Greece was conquered by Rome; and although Greek dominance came to an end, the nation continued to live by being absorbed into another one of the earthly kingdoms, the Roman Empire.
21. But the fourth empire will be completely destroyed and replaced by a totally new world order, the kingdom of God.
22. In chap. 2 the continued existence of the defeated kingdoms is paralleled in that the statue did not collapse until its lowest part, the iron and clay feet and toes (representing the final phase of the last empire), was struck by the stone.
23. In verses 13-14 the grand climax of the vision is reached. Four kingdoms were symbolized by the beasts—the kingdoms of men.
24. Now another kingdom comes into view—the kingdom of God. Verse 13 is the verse of Daniel most often quoted in the New Testament.
25. Though his rule on earth will last one thousand years (cf. Rev 20:4–6), Christ’s sovereignty will not end after the millennium but will continue throughout eternity.
26. Two persons are clearly seen in verses 13–14, the “son of man” and the “Ancient of Days.” If the “son of man” is Christ, then the “Ancient of Days,” who is also deity, must be God the Father.
27. Here then is an Old Testament glimpse of the plurality of persons in the Godhead. The Son is presented to the Ancient of Days that He might receive a universal kingdom. (Psalm 2:6-9)
28. In verses 15-27 we are given the interpretation of Daniel’s vision.
29. Out of the old Roman Empire will come ten kings (or kingdoms) that will constitute a new phase of that empire at the end of the age.
30. The little horn (vs. 8, 11, 20–22) previously identified as a person is now interpreted as a king of the last days. He is called in Scripture, among other names, the “man of lawlessness” (2 Thess 2:3), and the “Antichrist” (1 John 2:18).
31. Why will Antichrist be so vicious in his opposition to the saints? First, believers will oppose his murderous and wicked activities. Second, he will be inspired by Satan, who hates the people of God.
32. Finally, the fourth empire in its latter-day phase comes to an end and with it the domination of this world’s kingdoms. Now the kingdom of God fills the earth. War is no more; universal peace and prosperity pervade the globe.