

DAY 3: THE INTERPRETATION OF DANIEL 7

In the first section of Daniel there are four beasts, which represent four Gentile nations that are adversarial towards Israel. Then, in the second section, the throne room of God, the Father, and the Son. The court sits and judgement is passed against the fourth beast, the Antichrist, and the Son of Man and His saints are given an eternal kingdom. The coming end of this wicked system and the restoration of all things under the rule of Jesus, the eternal King, is the heart of the Gospel.

I. COMING ON THE CLOUDS

- A. “The coming of the Son of Man on the clouds” is often a debated topic (v. 13)
 - 1. Some will say that this is historical, Jesus has already ascended
 - 2. Others will say that Jesus is not returning, which is not Biblical
- B. The coming of the Son of Man is the victory of Israel over her enemies
- C. The Blessing of Moses is the Biblical foundational for this concept of Jesus coming back on the clouds (Deuteronomy 33)
 - 1. Uses the language of the Exodus
 - 2. Jesus is coming back in thick storm clouds, in blazing fire
- D. Ultimately, when Jesus returns, He will crush the head of Satan and the seed line
- E. In Deuteronomy 33, we see language of:
 - 1. God coming from haven
 - 2. With myriads of His holy ones
 - 3. Shining like the sun
 - 4. To save His people
 - 5. As the divine warrior
- F. This language is used throughout the New Testament to describe Jesus’ return
- G. This foundation is also built upon throughout the Old Testament (Isaiah 40:4-5, 10)
- H. “The Lord will come in fire” (Isaiah 66:15-16)
 - 1. God’s throne is a chariot
- I. Jesus proclaims that the “Son of Man” will come in the glory of His Father and uses language of Daniel 7 to describe Himself (Matthew 16:27)
- J. There was an expectation of the Messiah, the Coming One, the Son of David, the King of Israel but, there was also an expectation that God would return to save His people
 - 1. Daniel 7 connects these two prophecies through Jesus
- K. As Jesus is taken up, angels confirm that He will return the same way (Acts 1:9-11)

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II. INTERPRETING THE VISION

- A. The terms “king” and “kingdom” are essentially interchangeable ([Daniel 7:23](#))
- B. The little horn starts small, but ends up bigger than the others
- C. “All the world” referring to the whole region (not the entire globe) ([v. 23](#))
- D. Repeatedly see the statement of the Antichrist subduing three of the kingdoms
 - 1. The nations that fall: Egypt, Libia, Sudan ([v. 24](#))
- E. “The kingdoms under the whole heaven” now refers to the entire Earth ([v. 27](#))
- F. This vision was something that greatly alarmed Daniel ([v. 28](#))
- G. The fourth beast is likely an Islamic Nation in the Middle East
- H. Jesus is the Highest One, who are the Saints of the Highest One?
 - 1. We, as Gentiles, are grafted into the olive tree by faith, through grace
- I. God, at times, does allow Satan to win. He will allow Satan to triumph over the Saints for a short time ([v. 25](#))
 - 1. However, relief will come when Jesus returns ([2 Thessalonians](#))
- J. When we lay down our lives, we are bearing the testimony of Jesus
 - 1. Satan will be enraged by this ([Revelation 12](#))
 - 2. We are all called to be witnesses