**The Book of Daniel
Chapters 7-12**

**Lesson 4***"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...
and gives wisdom to the wise."*

On the willows there

We hung up our lyres

For our captors there, required

Of us song…and our tormentors, mirth.

 Psalm 137; The Musical "Godspell"

"It is a wonder that any man who considers and meditates on his exiled state and the many dangers to his soul, can ever be perfectly happy in this life."

 Thomas a Kempis

Chapter 7-12 Outline

1. The vision of four great beasts and their judgment and its interpretation

2. The vision of the ram, the goat, and the little horn and its interpretation

3. Daniel's prayer of repentance for Israel

4. Daniel's vision of the final conflict in heaven and on earth

Some of Daniel's visions were for events coming in the centuries after Daniel

Some were for the end of time *(yet to come)*

Some were for both

Daniel is quoted frequently by Jesus when He predicted the end-time events of Matthew 24

 10 signs of the end times that have occurred in part

 1. Calamities: earthquakes, natural disasters, plagues, wars, famines

 2. False prophets and deception

 3. The love of many will grow cold

 4. Persecution of believers will increase

10 Signs of the end times that have *not yet* occurred

 5. Gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth

 6.The "abomination of desolation"

 Depends on Israel being reestablished as a nation in its "Promised Land"

Matt. 24:15-16

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then

the end will come. So when you see standing in the holy place *‘the abomination of desolation,’*

described by the prophet Daniel *(let the reader understand),* then let those who are in Judea flee to

the mountains..."

10 Signs of the End Times that Have *not yet* occurred

 7.The gathering of Christ's people *(the rapture)*

 8.The Great Tribulation

 9.The Second Coming of Christ

 10.Heaven and/or the Millennial Reign of Jesus and Israel

Daniel Chapter 7

V. 1 Date 552 BC: first year of Belshazzar

 Before the events of chapter 5 (*the writing on the wall that year was 539 BC)*. Daniel was in Babylon

V. 2-3 The vision of the four great beasts and the heavenly court

The four beasts represent four mighty kings and kingdoms

Four winds and four beasts: seemingly uncontrollable forces that are threatening

Each beast is more frightening than the preceding one
 A lion with an eagle's wings

 A bear

 A leopard with four heads and four wings

 A "beast" of some kind

These four symbolize the same kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's Daniel Ch. 2 dream of the great statue

Babylon

 Medo-Persia

 Greece

 Rome and its ten toes

v. 4 The first beast: a lion with wings
 This symbolizes the Babylonian kingdom where Daniel was living

This first beast was made to stand on two feet like a man and receive the mind of a man

 *(Nebuchadnezzar's humbling)*

The decline of Babylon is symbolized by its wings being plucked off

V. 5 The second beast was a bear that had three ribs in its mouth and was told to devour much flesh

 This symbolized the Medo-Persian empire

This empire conquered the empires of Lydia, Babylonia, and Egypt

In the next vision of Daniel is of a ram and goat

 The angel in chapter 8 interpreted these two animals for us as Medo-Persia and Greece at war

v. 6 The third beast is a leopard with four wings and four heads

– Fast, with great eyesight *(vision;* and deadly

 -- Represented Greece under Alexander the Great

 -- Alexander conquered the Mideast as far as India in ten years between the ages of 22 and 32

At Alexander's death, his kingdom was divided into four part--initially given to an infant children and

half-brother, but then taken from them by four of his generals

These generals created four new Greek empires that lasted until they were conquered by Rome near the time of King Herod the Great

v. 7 The fourth beast is not described as a known animal: just that it is terrifying, strong, and different

The beast has ten heads: like the ten toes on Nebuchadnezzar's statue

 Ten heads: like the ten horned beast in Rev. 17:12

 This beast may represent the ten kingdoms in Psalm 84 (Islamic descendants of the ten Old

Testament enemies of Israel)

The beast has ten heads, horns, representing kings

 There were twelve Caesars from Julius Caesar to Domitian (*two only reigned for a few months)*

v. 8 Out of the beast comes a little horn that grows in power. It is similar to:

 The beast out of the sea in Rev. 13:1-10

 The little horn of Dan. 9:26 -- with eyes and a mouth like a man

 The" willful king" of Dan. 11:36-45

 The "man of sin" of II Thes. 2:4-8

Is the little horn?:

 The Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanes IV?

 The Roman General Titus?

 The antichrist in the end times?

v. 9-10 The Ancient of Days judging the beasts. His throne of judgment is visualized in Rev.4:2-4; 20:4

 The Ancient of Days has:

 White clothes *(purity)*

 White hair *(age and wisdom)*

 A chariot-throne for war *(Ezekiel 1)*

 Myriads of angels around Him

v. 11-12 The beast keeps talking in the Courtroom *(like Rabadash the Calorman prince in "The Horse and His Boy" by C. S. Lewis)*

Daniel 7:11

Then I kept watching because of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued to watch, the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

The rest of the beasts are not destroyed, but their kingdom are taken away and their lives are prolonged for a season and a time

Perhaps to rule over their countries in the millennium?

 Similar to the twelve apostles who are promised that they would rule in Israel

Matt. 19:28

And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

v. 13-14 The coming of the Son of Man with the clouds of heaven

Matt. 24:30

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

The Son of Man

 Sometimes "son of man" just means a man *( this occurs in Ezekiel 90 times!)*

Ezek. 2:1

And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you."

Frequently angels are referred to as "sons of *God*"

"Son of man" most significantly, refers to a divine being dwelling in heaven with the Ancient of Days –

The Son of *Man* who is also the "only begotten" *Son* *of God*

Ps. 2:7

The LORD said to me, “You are *my Son*; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession."

Matt. 26:64

Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at

the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

When Jesus uses the term "son of man" while speaking with the Jewish leaders, they understand him to mean the divine Son of God; the Messiah

They accuse Jesus of blasphemy

The son of man is presented to the Ancient of Days in verse 13 *(like in the book of Revelation)*

Rev. 5:6-7

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

The Son of Man is given dominion and power and glory to replace all earthly authority by the Ancient of Days Jesus taught that He fulfilled this in Matt. 26:64

Jesus will reign over all peoples, nations, and languages

 His kingdom will be eternal, everlasting

The Son of Man coming in v.13-14 is placed in the vision immediately after the judgment of the "little horn"

This could *no*t have happened historically after Antiochus Epiphanes or Titus

 This has not yet occurred--it awaits fulfillment in the end times

Jesus will return "in the clouds"

 Not metaphorically

 Not just with invisible angels in a so-called "cloud"

 He will return universally visibly in the sky

Matt. 24:26-27; 30

So if they tell you, ‘There He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or ‘Here He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.  For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.… and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."

 Acts 1:9-11

After He had said this, they watched as He was taken up and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were

looking intently into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

v. 15 -16 Daniel is anxious, alarmed.

Daniel is not given the interpretation of this dream directly from the Lord *(like in the case of Nebuchadnezzar's statue)*

 An angel must interpret it to him

v. 18 But the saints of the most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever, and ever

The saints will judge and reign

Rev. 5:10

"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”

I Cor. 6:2-3

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

v. 20 The horn makes war with the saints *and prevails*

v. 25; The little horn "wears the saints out"

v. 27 Daniel was overcome and became sick --he was appalled by the vision and "did not understand it."