

## 22T12e Daniel 7

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I just have to say it. I don't really like eschatology or end times theology. I always figured it was going to happen so why worry about it. I would say things like, it does not help me follow Jesus, it does not help me reach others for Jesus, then why. What's the point? And this is true.

And I still kind of feel this way but over recent years, this topic keeps coming up over and over and over again. I think Jesus is trying to tell me something. So, I'm trying to be obedient and study the word of God as Jesus wants me to, not as I would like to do it.

Anyway, here we are talking again, about eschatology and prophecies. Today we will discuss Daniel 7 and the four beasts from the sea.

**Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Okay, today we are going to discuss Daniel 7. This is a dream that has been argued about a lot. The four beasts, horns and kings, have been thought to be many nations in the past and future. And we don't really know. The commentaries that our out there are wildly different. Many try very hard to make this about end times, but why? Why is this considered end times prophecy? Remember, we do not know who God intended the audience to be for Daniel's vision. We assume it was the Hebrews but we don't know this for certain. So, when we see God's holy people or God's chosen people, it does not automatically mean Israel or at least not the nation of Israel although it could. It just doesn't have to mean Israel.

The simplest way is to just read it but remember God gives us a partial interpretation at the end of Daniel 7 so stick with me until the end.

Daniel 7: 1-8 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and told the following summary of it. <sup>2</sup>Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup>And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. <sup>4</sup>The first was like a lion but had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and set up on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. <sup>5</sup>And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and they said this to it: 'Arise, devour much meat!' <sup>6</sup>After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. <sup>7</sup>After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup>While I was thinking about the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the previous horns were plucked out before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like human eyes, and a mouth uttering great boasts.*

Now beasts are often used to symbolize kingdoms or nations and horns to symbolize kings or leaders. But, which countries, when and what kings? Well, your guess is as good as mine. Is it future or is it past? I have no idea. But then neither does anyone else. I best explanation I've heard is that the 1<sup>st</sup> beast is Chaldeans, 2<sup>nd</sup> beast is Media-Persia, 3<sup>rd</sup> beast is Greece and 4<sup>th</sup> beast is generally thought to be the Roman empire or possibly the Syrian empire after Alexander the Great. Most seem to think these are all historical kingdoms, then some want to warp forward to the Antichrist and end times. Again, if the 1<sup>st</sup> three beasts are Babylon, Persia, and Greece, it would make since that the 4<sup>th</sup> would immediately follow. I just don't see any reason for a "time Gap". For the moment let's assume that the 4<sup>th</sup> beast could be represented the Roman Empire. Then what?

Let's see what else Daniel 7 has for us. Daniel 7:9-12 (NAS) *<sup>9</sup>I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. <sup>10</sup>A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were serving Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court convened, And the books were opened. <sup>11</sup>Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was killed, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. <sup>12</sup>As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.*

I'll be honest it is very difficult to make sense of these verses. We know Jesus will judge all of creation at the end of this age. But these verses do not speak about the white throne of judgement. This vision is of the throne of God very similar to what Ezekiel saw in Ezekiel 1 and what John records for us in Revelation 4 & 5. Let's read on with Daniel 7:13-14 (NAS) *<sup>13</sup>I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup>And to Him was given dominion, Honor, and a kingdom, So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.*

Most people want to make this the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ and the millennium reign of Jesus. But does it have to be? Daniel is already in the presences of God's throne room, then the "one like the son of man" was coming with the clouds of heaven. From the perspective of Daniel at that moment this has to be in heaven. Could this be Jesus at his ascension instead of 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Did not God, give all dominion to Jesus after the resurrection. Matthew 28:18-20 (NAS) *<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup>Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Dominion over all creation, on the earth, in heaven and under the earth was given to Jesus. Jesus' dominion is everlasting. And His kingdom is now, not some far off future time. Jesus is king now. Thousands upon thousands from every nation and every language follow Jesus now. This does not have to be future, in fact every word of these verses matches Jesus today. Matches Jesus always and forever. It seems redundant if not irrelevant to say dominion is given to Jesus again, after Matthew 28. How many times will God have to give an everlasting dominion to Jesus. The answer is very straight forward only once. Jesus says he has all authority in Matthew 28, so Daniel has to be talking about the 1<sup>st</sup> advent of Christ, not the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

So, let's see what the explanation is in Daniel 7:15-28 (NAS) *<sup>15</sup>As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. <sup>16</sup>I approached one of those who were standing by*

*and began requesting of him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: <sup>17</sup>‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and take possession of the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. <sup>19</sup>‘Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet, <sup>20</sup>and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three of the horns fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates. <sup>21</sup>I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and prevailing against them, <sup>22</sup>until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. <sup>23</sup>‘This is what he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and will devour the whole earth and trample it down and crush it. <sup>24</sup>As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will humble three kings. <sup>25</sup>And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time. <sup>26</sup>But the court will convene for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. <sup>27</sup>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 empires will serve and obey Him.’ <sup>28</sup>‘At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face became pale, but I kept the matter to myself.’”*

A lot is made of two points. “Alterations to times and law,” and “time, times and half time.”

First alterations of times and law. This is very nonspecific, but there are several historical accounts of the roman emperors and Syrian kings changing things that would affect the holy people. An example of this is the length of the week. Israel followed a 7 day week with a sabbath on the last day, the seventh day. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the Romans had 8 day week and no sabbaths. Just days and work. And there are other examples. But kings over ancient history changed the laws and times. Even the length of a year, month, week etc. This is a common practice of the ancient world. Of course we know God knows better, which is why our week, months and year is so close to what God ordained.

Most say that time, times and half a time is three and half years. But this is just a guess. It could be, but it is not explicitly clear from this text. There are other scriptures were this phrase it used, including Daniel 12 and Revelation. But that is not conclusive, nor is it really important.

What is clear is Jesus is the new King and His kingdom is everlasting. That is true right now. So, this does not have to be future. This could quite easily be past tense, meaning Daniel 7 could be history, not still to be future prophecy. I think that is pretty amazing.

**Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Thank you are every story, every message in the Bible. Help us understand your purpose for giving them. Help us to understand how you intend us to view them. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your**

**message. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

So, okay. Is Daniel 7 end times prophecy or something else. I don't know but what I see is it does not have to be future end times. In fact history fits, this prophecy quite well. Jesus is already king of kings and lord of lords. That is not a future thing. Jesus already has dominion over all nations of the earth. He just is not exercising that dominion today. So yes, Daniel 7 could have been fulfilled in history. I find that very exciting.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about different ways to view these end times scriptures.

If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.