

The Book of Daniel

The First Vision of Daniel

Daniel 7

1. The Vision's Effect Upon Daniel (Dan. 7:15, 28)

Daniel was distressed and continually alarmed by the vision. He was so impacted by this vision and its interpretation that it effected his waking mind and body.

2. The Vision's Relationship to Other Revelation

A. The Statue in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Dan. 2)

B. The Beast of Revelation (Rev. 13:1-10; 17:8-13)

C. The Vision of the Ram and Goat (Dan. 8)

3. The Vision's Consistent Themes

There are many details of this distressing and alarming vision that remain blurry in our understanding. Though it was filled with so many unknowns for Daniel, some important details are relatively clear.

A. The Terrible Nature of Man's Kingdoms (Dan. 7:5, 7)

While Nebuchadnezzar's dream pictured man's kingdoms as an enormous statue of precious metals, Daniel's vision appears to describe the same kingdoms as wild, wicked, and insatiable. The worst of them is characterized by waging war against the saints (v.21) and blaspheming God (v.25).

B. The Temporary Nature of Man's Kingdoms (Dan. 7:11-12)

While each of these beastly kingdoms thrives for a time and is seemingly unstoppable, they each in turn give way to a more powerful one which unseats it (cf. Dan. 8:2-8).

C. The Saints Possess the Kingdom of God (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27)

In case there is any doubt about the ultimate kingdom, Daniel repeatedly specifies that the saints will be the ones who inherit and possess this kingdom.

D. The Everlasting Kingdom of God (Dan. 7:14, 18, 22, 27)

In contrast to the beastly kingdoms of men, the kingdom of God will not end (cf. Dan. 2:31-35, 44-45). Though the Jewish people have not yet enjoyed the fulfillment of God's promise to David, they are not to lose hope.

4. The Vision's Comforting Point for Daniel

One of the main themes in the book of Daniel has been that God is sovereign over all things. It is not insignificant that God decided to present this vision to

Daniel following a time of great political uncertainty and prior to an even greater time of political uncertainty and danger for himself and for the Jewish people (cf. Est. 3:5-6).

5. The Vision's Compelling Point for Us

We have the benefit of seeing the specificity of the historic fulfillment of much of what God had revealed to Daniel. It is with that same confident assurance that we should expect God to bring to pass those things which have not yet taken place in history.