



Introduction to “Seated on the Throne”

Chapter 7 is a critical chapter in the book of Daniel and its content is closely connected to chapters 2, 8, and 11. Whereas chapters 1-6 covered the life of Daniel, chapter 7 now turns toward details of Daniel’s prophetic messages during the course of his 70 years of ministry. The vision in Daniel 7 occurred right before the hand writing on the wall we explored in chapter 5. The four beasts represent four kings and kingdoms, upon which for the people it seemed all history and life and hope depended. In the middle of this vision God “Seated on the Throne” appears in this marvelous portrayal of divine presence and judgement that brings the beasts’ reigns to an end. Then we see an astounding vision of the Son of Man, Jesus, coming and establishing HIS kingdom *with* the saints; the suffering of the saints disturbs Daniel. The dream interpretation focuses in on the mysterious 4th Beast which brings

us right to the book of Revelation, the antichrist, the end times, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.

Daniel Series Objectives:

Head: To understand the Book of Daniel.

Heart: To face hardship with courage.

Hands: To make choices that glorify God.

Part 7: Seated on the Throne

Text: Daniel 7

Big Idea: Because God is seated on the throne I can live with hope in his coming Kingdom.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. The Four Beasts (1-8).
Do not put your hope in earthly beasts.
2. The Ancient of Days (9-12).
When in doubt, remember the Ancient of Days is Seated on the Throne.
3. The Son of Man (13-14).
Look to Jesus; he is central to God's unfolding plan.
4. The Battle with the Fourth Beast (15-28).
In Christ we will find eternal victory over evil.

Getting Started

Have you had any scary dreams that you can remember?

Have you been afraid of any animals or insects?

Digging Deeper

Why do you think Daniel's readers would have been comforted to hear this message of God's sovereignty?

Explain in your own words what apocalyptic literature is and how we should interpret it in Scripture.

What do each of the beasts suggest about the strengths of their respective kingdoms? What weaknesses do these images suggest?

How is God shown to be sovereign even over the beasts (i.e., kings and their kingdoms) in verses 4-8?

Summarize the importance of Daniel 7:9-14 to theology (doctrine of God), Christology (doctrine of Christ), and eschatology (doctrine of the end times).

How does the description of God in 7:9-10 show his superiority over the beasts?

What does the last beast symbolize, other than just the Roman Empire? How does that help us apply this passage to our contemporary context?

What evidence in the Bible is there that the Son of Man should be identified with Jesus?

What words of comfort and promise does this give God's people? Based on this and other relevant passages of Scripture, describe the nature and character of the antichrist.

Live It Out

Pray: Renew your hope in Jesus. Ask for hope and strength for specific circumstances.

Confess: What changes --in attitude and actions-- might the Spirit be impressing on your heart as you live the week ahead?

Act: Consider studying the end times further. How might you study the end times as a life long learner? Consider doing further study on Daniel, on other prophecy or apocalyptic literature, the book of Revelation, or perhaps a book or video series on the end times.