

Daniel 7:9-28 (NASB) Notes

⇒ The scene shifts dramatically in v. 9 ... what is happening now?

⁹ “I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the **Ancient of Days** took His seat; His vesture was like **white snow** and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its **wheels** were a burning fire.

- “**Ancient of Days**” – The name that emphasizes God’s eternity. See **Ps.90:2; 102:24-25; Mic.5:2; Hab.1:12**
- “**white as snow**” – absolute moral purity (**Isa.1:18; Rev. 1:14**).
- “**wheels**” – described in more detail in **Ezekiel 1:15-21,26-27** and **10**. It was common in the ancient Near East for thrones of kings to have wheels.

¹⁰ “A **river of fire** was flowing and coming out from before Him; **thousands upon thousands** were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the **books** were opened.

- “**river of fire**” – symbolic of God’s judgment being poured out.
- “**ten thousand times ten thousand**” – the square of the highest number for which ancients had a word.

⇒ What might the “**books**” refer to in v. 10? • “**books**” – symbolic of God’s memory of the deeds, words and thoughts of every person who ever lived (**Ex.32:32; Dan.12:1; Lk.10:20; Rev.20:12**)

¹¹ Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

- Notice the startling contrast between God on His throne and the “**boastful horn**.”

⇒ What happens to the “**boastful horn**” in v. 11? • See **Rev.19:20**

¹² 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**.

⇒ What is meant by the “**extension of life**” granted to the other beasts for “**an appointed period of time**”?

- Their dominance ceased, but they continued to exist as they were absorbed into the next empire. Not so with the fourth kingdom which will be completely destroyed and replaced by a totally new world order.

¹³ “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.

- Verse 13 is the verse of Daniel most often quoted in the N.T. Blue Letter Bible lists 25x N.T. references. Plus, this verse has been the subject of more scholarly papers than any other in the book.

⇒ Identify the “*Son of Man*” introduced in v. 13. • Used 82x in the Gospels, frequently by Jesus Himself.

• Some say the archangel Michael; others say the personification of the people of God, the Jewish nation. But the N.T. apostles and Jesus Christ Himself confirm that the “*Son of Man*” is Jesus (**Mk.14:61-62,64**). See also Isa.2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Ezek.34:23-24; Mt.16:27-28; 19:28; 24:30; 25:31; 28:18; **Phil.2:9-11**; Rev.19:1ff; 20:4-6.

• Besides being a divine title, “*Son of Man*” also sets forth the humanity of the Lord. Jesus Christ is God, but also partakes of human nature.

• Another significant truth is portrayed in vv. 13-14 ... two persons are clearly distinguished. This is an O.T. glimpse of the plurality of persons in the Godhead (cf., **Ps.2:6-9**).

¹⁴ “And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

¹⁵ “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was **distressed** within me, and the visions in my mind kept **alarming** me.

¹⁶ I approached one of those who were **standing by** and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

⇒ Identify the one “*standing by*” who interpreted the vision for Daniel.

• Since angels were standing in the presence of the Ancient of Days (**v.10**), and since angels often interpret visions for mortals (Dan.9:21ff; 10:10ff; Zech.1:9ff; 2:3ff; Rev.17:7ff), this is probably an angel here, too ... possibly Gabriel (8:16; 9:21).

¹⁷ ‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are **four kings** who will arise from the earth.

¹⁸ But the **saints** of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’

⇒ Who will possess the eternal kingdom according to vv. 18, 22, 27?

• “**saints**” = lit. “**holy ones**”

¹⁹ “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,

²⁰ and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.

²¹ I kept looking, and that horn was **waging war** with the saints and **overpowering them**

⇒ What will happen before they possess the eternal kingdom? (vv. 21, 25)

• See **Rev.13:7**

²² 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.

²³ “Thus 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 tread it down and crush it.

²⁴ 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 subdue three kings.

- They reign contemporaneously as one empire (cf., **Rev.17:12-13**).
- The little horn is also the “man of lawlessness” (**2Thess.2:3**), the “Antichrist” (**1Jn.2:18**), and the “beast” (**Rev.13:1ff**).

²⁵ He will **speak out 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 given into his hand for a **time, times, and half a time**.

- Blasphemy (**Rev.13:5-6**, **2Thess.2:1-12**).
- “**wear down**” = “wear away” or “wear out” like a garment, **Rev.13:16-17**.
- “**set times**” = religious holidays. “**law**” = probably religious laws.

⇒ How long will this last? • See **12:7; 12:11; Rev.13:5; 11:2; 12:14**.

²⁶ But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and **destroyed forever**.

- “**destroyed forever**” = completely destroyed; “destroyed to the forever.”

²⁷ 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 dominions will serve and obey Him.’

²⁸ “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were **greatly alarming me** and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.” (cf., **v.15**)

- The Aramaic portion of the books ends with this verse.

⇒ Why repeat the prophecy of the four kingdoms?

- They complement each other.
- The image of the metals in chapter two may portray the world’s kingdoms from a human perspective – impressive and great, whereas the beasts in this chapter depict these earthly kingdoms from God’s perspective – vicious and destructive.
- To emphasize the certainty of this amazing prophecy.

⇒ How did Daniel respond to this vision? What can we *“take away”* from his response?

- It is dangerous to study prophecy just to satisfy our curiosity, or to impress others with our “Bible knowledge.”
- *“If divine truth doesn’t touch our own hearts and affect our conduct, then our Bible study is only an intellectual exercise to inflate our own ego”* (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Resolute*, p. 114).
- *“The Bible doesn’t approve of this modern curiosity that plays with the Scriptures and which seeks only to impress credulous and gullible audiences with the ‘amazing’ prophetic knowledge possessed by the brother who is preaching or teaching!”* (A.W. Tozer)