

Session 2 God's Sovereign Leadership Over History (Dan. 7:9-14)

I. OUTLINE OF DANIEL 7:1-14

This is our second session in End-Time Studies in the Book of Daniel. Look at the quick outline here of Daniel 7:9-14.

A. Daniel's vision: four beasts symbolizing four world empires (7:1-8)

In our last session we looked at the vision of the four beasts. They symbolize the four world empires that would create the historical context for which the Messiah would come to Israel, the nation of Israel would get saved, the church would come forth in purity at the end of the age, and the earth would be filled with the glory of God.

B. God's leadership in the end times (7:9-14)

1. God enthroned in majesty (7:9-10)
2. Destruction of the Antichrist (7:11-12)
3. Jesus' heavenly coronation as King over all nations (7:13-14)

Tonight we are looking at God's leadership in the end times. This is a very important passage in verse 9-14. First we will look at a snapshot, a glimpse at God enthroned in majesty. Then out of the revelation of the throne of God we see the destruction of the enemy. The reason the throne room is set forth first is so that we are not fearful of the Antichrist. Finally, the destruction of the Antichrist leads to the coronation of Jesus over all the nations. He received His coronation in heaven right after the resurrection and the ascension, but there will be a coronation in the earth where He is seen as King by all nations, where He returns to be received as King.

II. INTRODUCTION: GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND THE ANTICHRIST

- #### **A. Daniel saw a vision of God sitting on His throne (7:9) immediately after he saw the terrible beast, which represents the Antichrist's empire (7:7-8).**

⁷***"I saw...a fourth beast [Antichrist], dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong..." (Dan. 7:7)***

It is interesting that the revelation of the Antichrist is in the verses right before the scene of the throne room. He is revealed in verses 7-8, while the throne is revealed in verse 9. It is important that right after the revelation of the Antichrist is the revelation of the throne. Daniel sees his first glimpse of the Antichrist who is dreadful, terrible, and exceedingly strong. Daniel probably takes a deep gasp, but then he sees the throne of God. It is very important that we see the continuity and the sequence of verse 7-8 followed by verse 9. The revelation of the sovereignty of God is the first thing emphasized after Daniel's first glimpse of the Antichrist. This is an important principle that, even in the raising up of the Antichrist, the sovereignty of God is being demonstrated and magnified. Some people have not thought it all the way through, as they have this idea that when the Antichrist comes it is like, "Oh no, everything is dark!" No, God's sovereignty will be demonstrated, magnified, and displayed in the midst of the darkest hour of evil on the earth.

The idea, the very important premise of the sovereignty of God related to the end times, is shocking and offensive to people. It is the idea that God allows the Antichrist to be raised up to accomplish His purpose. In Revelation 6:1, Jesus releases the first seal, which I believe is the Antichrist. Jesus releases the Antichrist. Jesus is not afraid of the Antichrist. Heaven is not nervous. Satan could not raise up the Antichrist without the approval of the Father. We know that everything works together for good.

- B. God will allow the Antichrist to be raised up to accomplish God's purpose. God's sovereign plan, Satan's rage, and the sinful choices of people are all involved in the Antichrist's reign of terror.

²⁸***And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)***

In the very presence of the Antichrist, we have God's sovereign plan and power activated fully, Satan's rage being demonstrated, and the sinful choices of people fully engaged and activated in this process. All three of them are involved in the reign of the Antichrist. God's sovereignty is demonstrated. The rage of Satan is being manifest, and evil people are choosing. Who is most responsible? God would say, "It is fully under My sovereign plan and power. Satan is fully guilty. The people who embrace him and create the human response necessary for his reign of terror are guilty also before Me." All of them are working together for good.

- C. All authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Jesus (Mt. 28:18). God has the authority to set into place the leaders of the nations to serve His purposes (Dan. 4:17; Rom. 13:1-4).

¹⁸***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Mt. 28:18)***

¹***There is no authority except from God...the authorities that exist are appointed by God...***

⁴***He is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (Rom. 13:1-4)***

The premise is that the Antichrist is raised up by the sovereignty of God, God's sovereign plan and power. That is part of the message of Daniel. Chapter 7:7-8 is the first appearance of the Antichrist. Verse 9 is the throne. That is the sequence in these verses and in the scenes in this vision.

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, "All authority is Mine." That is, "In the heavenly realm all the authority is Mine. In the spirit realm all the authority is Mine. In hell, all authority is Mine. I will stop him on the day I choose. As a matter of fact, it will go for forty-two months, 1260 days. I will tell you the day." Then He adds thirty to make it 1290 days. "I will tell you the day of his demise. That is how much power I have over him. Thousands of years ahead of time I can tell you the day of his demise." Nobody can predict the fall of an empire and the day that the most powerful leader of the empire will be killed. Jesus says, "I will give it to you thousands of years ahead of time." We do not know the day, but the day has already been determined by the authority of the Father.

Paul affirmed this idea in Romans 13:1, "There is no authority except that God allows it." He is talking about governmental authority on the earth. There is no evil leader who somehow got by God's notice and got into power. There is no such authority. He was talking now in the book of Romans when they had evil leaders. I mean Nero was on the scene in the Roman Empire. Nero killed Paul. Paul was writing to Rome. He was saying, in effect that "Nero did not escape God's notice. He was put in place by God, though the devil is fully responsible, and the evil choices of sinful men that engaged in it made them guilty too." The authorities that exist are appointed by God. They are avengers to execute the wrath of God on the people who practice evil. You say, "How can the Antichrist be a vessel of the wrath of God?" Well, the people that actually support the Antichrist come under judgment by the very reign of terror of the Antichrist. Many of them come under destruction by this man's own leadership as his own ways and policies lead to the abomination of desolation, the desolation of nations.

- D. God raised up Pharaoh in Moses' day as the most powerful man on earth (Ex. 9:16; Rom. 9:17). He raised up an evil Assyrian leader named Sennacherib to judge Israel in 721 BC (Isa. 10:5). In 586 BC, He raised up Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon to discipline Israel (Jer. 22:7; 25:9, 12; 27:6; 43:10; Hab. 1:5-7). Then God raised up evil Persian kings to judge the Babylonians (Isa. 13:3-5).

¹⁷The Scripture says to Pharaoh, “I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” (Rom. 9:17)

We see this idea of the sovereignty of God in Romans 9:17. God raised up Pharaoh. Maybe you have seen a movie about Exodus with Moses and Pharaoh, and Pharaoh was kind of a little bit domesticated, a little bit vanilla, a little bit Hollywood. In truth, Pharaoh was a really mean guy. He was a very evil, oppressive man. He did not have some of the charm that some of the Hollywood movies give him.

God said, “I raised him up.” What an offensive thing to say in the hour when the Jews were in slavery for 400 years!

“You raised up Pharaoh?”

“Yes, I raised up the Pharaoh who resisted Me.” Of the Assyrian leader, Sennacherib, who brought destruction to the ten tribes of Israel in 721 B.C., God said, “I raised him up.” Ouch. Of Nebuchadnezzar, the very evil, demonized man brought the tribe of Judah and the city of Jerusalem into destruction, “I raised that man up.” This is intense. He said He raised up the Persian kings.

- E. Daniel saw that the saints were “given” into the Antichrist’s hand by God (7:25). The Antichrist will be “given” or “granted” authority to make war with saints (Rev. 13:5-7). The phrase “it was given” (or its equivalent), referring to God, was used often in the books of Daniel and Revelation (Dan. 2:23, 37, 38; 4:16; 5:28; 7:4, 6, 14, 25, 27; Rev. 6:2, 4, 8; 9:1, 3; 11:2; 13:5, 7, 14-15).

²⁵“He...shall persecute the saints...the saints shall be given into his hand...” (Dan. 7:25)

⁵He [Antichrist] was given...authority [by God] to continue for forty-two months...⁷It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Authority was given him [by God] over every tribe, tongue, and nation...¹⁴And he [False Prophet] deceives...by those signs which he was granted to do ...¹⁵He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast... (Rev. 13:5-15)

Daniel saw the saints were given by God into the hands of the Antichrist. It was not the devil. The devil did not have authority over God. God said, “No, no. I am going to give the Antichrist room to persecute them physically. In that context they will triumph over him spiritually. I will purify the church in the nations and bring in the great harvest in the context of that persecution, and will bring the nation of Israel to salvation.” It says later on in the vision of Daniel 7 speaking of the Antichrist, verse 25, “He will persecute the saints. The saints will be given into his hand.” Physically given into his hand means persecution and martyrdom. God will intervene in some cases. There will be miracles of deliverance even in persecution, but there will be many who will lose their lives. Even so, God will triumph, and the grace of God will be magnified in it. Love will abound in the whole context.

*In Revelation 13, John the apostle really emphasized this. The Antichrist will be given or granted authority. Look at this. The Antichrist is **given** authority, and it is clearly **given by God**. Satan does give his authority to the Antichrist, but Satan does not have authority over Jesus. He does not have authority over the church. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. The final authority is His. John told us in verse 7 that it was granted to him, the Antichrist, to make war with the saints. It was granted to him to overcome the saints physically for a short season. God’s purpose, again, is that love would abound, that purity would go forth, the great harvest would happen. Authority was given to him. Look at the five times here in this passage the terms “given” or “granted” or an equivalent is mentioned. It is mentioned very many times in the books of Revelation and Daniel.*

III. VISION OF THE THRONE: GOD'S LEADERSHIP OVER THE NATIONS (DAN. 7:9-10)

- A. Daniel saw a glimpse of the Father's majesty (7:9-10), the defeat of the Antichrist (7:11-12), and the exaltation of Jesus as king over all the earth (7:13-14). The way to overcome fear of the Antichrist is to grow in understanding of the sovereignty and majestic beauty of God on His throne.

We see the Antichrist in verses 7-8. In verses 9-10 we see the sovereignty of God, the throne of God. The way to overcome fear of the Antichrist is to grow in understanding the sovereignty and the majestic beauty of God on His throne. When we see the throne, we have courage and confidence before the threats. When we do not see the throne, and all we see is the threats, then we draw back in fear and are intimidated.

- B. No aspect of God's grace transforms and satisfies our heart more than when the Holy Spirit reveals the majesty of God to the human heart. I don't only want to serve Him; I want to be obsessed with His magnificence—to experience the power and pleasure of being obsessed with Jesus. This equips us to **overcome temptation, endure persecution, and engage in partnership** with Him in His plans.

No aspect of the grace of God transforms the heart more, no aspect satisfies the heart more than when God reveals God to the human heart. When God the Spirit reveals the Father and the Son, our heart is transformed, satisfied. I mean exhilarated and fascinated by who God is. Beloved, I do not want to just serve the Lord. I want to be obsessed with Him. I want Jesus to be my magnificent obsession. I do not want merely to serve, have an honorable ministry, and do pretty well. I want to be obsessed with this Man, with the majesty and the beauty of this Man. All of heaven is obsessed with this Man. I want to experience the power and the pleasure of being obsessed with Him and His Father.

That is what is happening in Daniel 7. Daniel is captured by what he sees. There is a message in this. The message is that when we see the throne, when we see the beauty, when we see the majesty of the Lord, it equips us to overcome temptation, to endure persecution, and to engage in partnership. When I see who He is, I do not want to draw back and avoid it; I want to engage. I want to be fully engaged in prayer, I want to be fully engaged in the works of the King, proclaiming fearlessly the truth of who He is.

*If you lose your head, you lose your head, and one thousandth of a second later you are in the presence of the glory of God. Not even a full second. They might kill you. If I end up in that situation, I just want them to do it fast. I mean it is intensely glorious what happens. I love to tell folks the goal in the end times is not to avoid death. That is not the goal. **The goal is to be faithful.** Everybody is going to die physically except at the very end with the rapture. The goal is not to avoid death. The goal is to avoid being unfaithful. That is what we want to avoid. I want to be faithful. If you died tonight, a second later you are in the glory of God, saying, "Whoa, this is amazing!"*

- C. Daniel saw the sovereign Lord seated in His heavenly court, and the books were opened (7:9-10).

***⁹"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days [the Father] was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰a fiery stream [river; NAS] issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."* (Dan. 7:9-10)**

We do not have to be fearful of death. We are not afraid of the Antichrist. The church should not be afraid he is going to kill them. So what if he kills them? The relational loss of people not seeing their loved ones, that is

real, but in the big picture of the sovereignty of God, the eternity of God, it is the glory of the saints to give their life for love.

In verse 9, we see the throne of God. Daniel says, "I watched." He was watching the Antichrist, the terrible, dreadful beast. Immediately the next verse, "I watched. Thrones were put in place around the heavenly courtroom." The implication is the thrones are not there permanently. Around the throne of God there are times when the thrones are set up. That is the implication to this. I do not know a lot about how it works up there, but Daniel is watching and the thrones are established for the court to go into session. Next the Ancient of Days is seated. Daniel is seeing the heavenly courtroom. There are seemingly various dimensions of that heavenly court. The thrones are set up, and the Father is seated. There is this movement and action. We think, "Wow, how does that work?" I do not know. The implication is that there are various dimensions and aspects of the heavenly court.

Then come the descriptions. His garments are white as snow. His hair is as pure wool. That is white as snow as well, the same idea. His throne is fiery. Verse 10. His throne is a flame of fire. The wheels related to the throne—you say, "The wheels?" Yes, the wheels—are burning fire too. What is that like? I do not know, but I cannot wait to see this. I think I might get there and say, "Oh!" It may be far more intense than we imagine. I think it is because those that are around the throne like the seraphim cover their eyes when they get near this scene.

Verse 10 speaks of a fiery stream or the NAS says a river. "A river of fire comes out from before the throne. A thousand thousands of angels are ministering. Ten thousand times ten thousand angelic beings." When that happens, the throne is put up, and the Ancient of Days sits. There is a dimension of movement. This is an aspect of the larger royal palace and courtroom of God. Now the court is seated on their thrones. They are ushered in and books are opened. What a glorious, full, majestic scene!

- D. **Ancient of Days:** This name depicts the Father's eternal nature as the One who establishes His plans from the perspective of eternity. This name is used three times in the Bible—all in Daniel 7. We cannot understand the intensity of evil and suffering in God's end-time plan without seeing that He establishes His plans with eternity in view. He has the last word on every nation and person.

In Daniel 7 three times the Father is called the Ancient of Days. That is His title. It depicts His eternal nature, but more than that, it speaks to His plans related to the end times, as that is what Daniel 7 is about mostly. They are rooted in an eternal perspective. It is not only that God is eternal; His plans only make sense with an eternal perspective. That is the idea. You cannot understand the intensity of the evil, and you cannot understand the intensity of the suffering, without seeing the eternal picture. If all we see is how it feels and looks right now, we will never be equipped. We spend time and energy anchoring our mindset into the realm of eternity.

One thing I have done over forty years is study this realm of eternity. I started when I was about eighteen years old, so for a little over forty years I have had this excitement about eternity and this desire to understand eternity. I did a little traveling through various seasons. Every time, I would go to the Christian bookstore in that city. I always asked them one question, "Show me all the books you have on anything related to eternity or heaven." Most bookstores only had one or two books. I ended up with quite a collection of accounts of people who saw visions of heaven. I do not believe all of the books. I have quite a collection over forty years. One of my hobbies is just to read testimonies, visions and encounters, and theology books about heaven. I love to daydream, "That is my inheritance. That is where I am going forever." I want to be locked into it. I have quite a collection, and no, you cannot borrow them. That is really rude for me to say that, isn't it? You know what? Allen Hood has about five of them. Take your liberty. You can use his. Really, there is so much stuff online

today that you can get all that you want by a few clicks. You do not really need the hard copies. Most of it is online now. Now I'm being sincere. You can get anything you want on that subject. My point is do not get so busy that you do not study that subject. Fill your mind with it. It just anchors you into a whole different mindset.

- E. **White as snow:** God's garments and hair are as white as snow. His garments speak of His deeds; His head speaks of His wisdom and purity in governing. All the Father's thoughts, actions, and plans are totally pure and perfectly wise. Jesus also appeared with white hair (Rev. 1:14).

⁸ ***...fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)***

His hair and His garments are white. His garments speak of His deeds. His hair speaks of His wisdom and purity. All of His thoughts, all of the actions, the deeds that flow out of His thoughts, all of His plans, are totally pure, perfectly wise. They cannot be improved upon in their purity or wisdom. That is the idea. "Then why did You allow the Antichrist? Did You overreach on this one plan, God?"

"No. My garments and My hair, My wisdom and My plans, everything is in perfect purity and wisdom. It cannot be improved upon."

- F. **His throne:** God's throne is the governmental center of the created order, guaranteeing that His plans will come to pass. His throne is a main theme in the book of Revelation, referred to forty times, with seven throne scenes (Rev. 4:2-5:14; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 14:1-5; 15:2-8; 19:1-8; 21:1-22:9). God's throne is the place of greatest fascination, intimacy, celebration, safety, and protection.

The throne of God is the governmental center of the created order. The very presence of the throne and the confidence of the throne is the guarantee. The very fact of the throne is our guarantee that His plans will come to pass. The throne of God is the main theme in the book of Revelation. It is mentioned forty times. It is the place of our greatest fascination, to study the throne. It is the place of greatest intimacy, celebration, safety, and protection. We want to study the throne scenes of God in the Bible. They are given to us by God so that we know them. Beloved, spend time on those scenes. Again, go on the internet. There are so many books out there. I do not believe every vision everybody has had, but I have been blessed, entertained, and enriched by reading these over the forty years.

- G. **Seated:** The Father sits in total confidence and security. None can successfully challenge Him.
- H. **A fiery stream:** A river of fire (7:10, NAS) comes from the throne, and a sea of glass mingled with fire is before the throne. The saints gather together on the sea of glass in God's fire (Rev. 15:2).

² ***I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)***

There is a river of fire. It is interesting that before the throne there is a sea of glass mingled with fire. The sea of glass is before the throne, so the river is coming out of the throne, and the sea of glass is mingled with fire. I am imagining the fire of God issuing out of the throne into this vast sea of glass. It is not a pond, and it is not a little lake. It is a sea. It is a vast area. It is the convocation, gathering center for all the saints. It is the place where all the saints, the billions of the collection of saints and angels all gather for the great holy convocations on the sea of glass before the throne. They worship, and there is the fire of God coming out of the throne touching the saints and the angels, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Oh what a glorious reality!

- I. All of God's enemies will stand before His throne (Rev. 20:11-15). God's throne is the place of great danger for His enemies. Divine decrees go forth from there to punish evil (2 Thes. 1:9).

¹¹I saw a great white throne...¹²I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books...¹⁵Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15)

If the throne of God is the saint's greatest fascination and safety, the throne of God is the most dangerous place for the enemies of God to stand. John develops that. They will all stand there. Everybody has an appointment there. Nobody will escape their appointment before God, whether they believe it or not.

One man said, "I am an atheist."

The preacher said, "You will not be for long. You may be one now, but you will not be in a few minutes. A little bit of time down the road you will see. You will believe when you stand there."

- J. ***The books were opened:*** God's books contain a detailed account of every believer and unbeliever (Ex. 32:32; Ps. 139:16; 87:6; Dan. 7:10; 12:1; Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27). Here the words and deeds of the Antichrist (little horn) are under review (7:11-12). The pompous words of the Antichrist (7:8) bring a strong response from God's court in heaven.

The books were opened. In context the point of the books being opened is that all the details of everyone's lives are in the books. The glorious thing for believers is that whatever we have repented of, that is under the blood, is taken out of the books. Not just something that we casually confessed, but where we have really repented. We declare, "I break my unity with what I did. What I did was wrong. I am not just admitting it as a religious exercise. I am declaring war on it." It is taken out of the books by the blood of Jesus. I love that part.

In context the books being opened also means the arrogant, pompous words of the Antichrist are recorded in the book, and God has a strong response to what is in His books, in His court session. The court session is about bringing accountability to these pompous, arrogant words and deeds of the Antichrist. The context of the throne is bringing judgment to the Antichrist's words and deeds and intervention for the saints.

- K. ***Thrones were put in place:*** Even now the elders sit on thrones before the Father.

⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders... (Rev. 4:4)

- L. ***The court was seated:*** Daniel saw God's court in session (7:9, 10, 26) with the Judge seated to evaluate the nations. In the midst of chaos on earth is the all-powerful throne of God. The heavenly court administers God's decrees concerning the earth. History is not spiraling out of control.

The court was seated. In the midst of all the chaos of the earth, God's courtroom is in session. I do not know, but it seems the implication is the courtroom is not in session all the time. There are times when the court is convened and in session, and times when it is not, assuming I understand this rightly. That is a conjecture. I want to stay general, not be too dogmatic or bold about this. There are times when God intervenes. The court session gathers and makes decrees, and the idea is that God will intervene in a dramatic way in history as a result of the court sessions. Later on in verse 25 the court convenes and God issues a decree against the Antichrist. The entire situation shifts on the earth. When the court convenes, the implication is there will be dramatic events happening in human history that shift things in the nations.

IV. THE FATHER'S ROYAL COURT

- A. Around the throne is God's royal court. It is the place of majesty, strength, beauty, etc.

⁶Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)

I love Psalm 96:6 and its four grand themes of honor, majesty, strength, and beauty at the throne of God. Honor, majesty, beauty and strength are seen in God's heavenly court.

- B. John's vision of the throne in Revelation 4-5 expands on what God showed Daniel. We gain more understanding when we read both passages together.

- C. Revelation 4 gives us one of the greatest revelations of God's beauty in Scripture. What God put around Himself expresses His beauty. I refer to Revelation 4 as the "beauty realm of God."

³He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne...like an emerald. ⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones... I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their head.

⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:3-6)

Revelation 4 is one of the greatest revelations of God's beauty in the Scripture, if not the greatest. So many components are brought together. You do not have to pick one passage, but so many components come together in this one passage. I call Revelation 4 "the beauty realm of God." What God put around His throne is what expresses His beauty. It expresses who He is and what He wants.

Verse 3, "The Father was like a jasper stone." That is a bright, radiant-like diamond. "And a sardius." That is a deep red gem like His fiery passion. "There was a rainbow of mercy around the throne like an emerald." Verse 4, "Around the throne were twenty-four thrones." I believe these twenty-four elders are redeemed human beings. "They are robed, crowned, and enthroned." The participation of God's people is there in representation. Verse 5, "Out of the throne lightening, thunder, voices, sounds"—music—is coming out of the throne. Every one of these is a vast subject. Then seven lamps were burning, and before the throne was the sea of glass. We know it has fire mingled all over it. Then the four living creatures are called the burning ones, the seraphim. They are displaying the fire of God, as are the four living creatures. There is so much here.

- D. I see four main categories with twelve details in John's description of God's royal court:

1. The beauty of **God's person**: how God looks, feels, and acts (Rev. 4:3)
2. The beauty of **God's people**: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)
3. The beauty of **God's power**: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, voices (Rev. 4:5a)
4. The beauty of **God's presence**: His fire on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)

I see four categories and twelve details. Vast subjects. We see the beauty of God's person in verse 3, the beauty of God's people in verse 4, the beauty of God's power in verse 5, and the beauty of God's presence in the last part of verse 5-7. I have a bit of this on the website when I did a twelve-part series on the throne. It is twelve sessions, but it is only a whisper, it is only a hint of what is here.

- E. Glorious light filled with many colors radiates from God's presence, including the brightness of diamonds (jasper), fiery red glory (sardius), and the colors of the emerald rainbow (Rev. 4:3). The jasper speaks of His splendor; the sardius, His fiery desires; and the rainbow, His mercy.
- F. God's throne releases beautiful, glorious, and terrifying manifestations of His heart and mind to the saints as **lightnings**, **thunderings**, and **voices** proceed from His throne (Rev. 4:5a).
- G. God's beauty is seen in how the Holy Spirit imparts His presence to those around Him, manifested with fire on the seven lamps, the four seraphim, and the crystal sea (Rev. 4:5-7).

V. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 7:11-12)

- A. God decreed that the Antichrist and his empire will be destroyed at Jesus' second coming (7:11-12).

¹¹I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast [Antichrist] was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (Dan. 7:11-12)

Now we move from the throne scene. The books have opened, and the deeds of the Antichrist and all those who are in his empire are written in the book. The court is in session. The judgment has been decreed, "He is finished. Destroy him." That is the decree of heaven. He only has forty-two months to operate in his seeming prominence and prosperity, the veneer of success for forty-two months. Limited.

The decree has come from the court session, "Destroy that man." The earth is marveling at the Antichrist, and Revelation 13:4 asks "Who can make war with him?"

The Father says, "This is no problem. My throne has already decreed his demise 2500 years before he was even raised up. I have already planned his destruction. I have already appointed the day for it. I will tell you how many days he will prosper. 1260. Not a day longer. I will tell you the very day. What a remarkable reality to say 2500 years in advance how long the most powerful dictator in history will stay in power, again, with the veneer or presentation of prosperity and success!

Verse 11-12, "I watched." First he saw the beast in verse 7-8, terrible and dreadful. Then verse 9-10 he sees the throne, books, and the court session. Verse 11-12 he sees the destruction of the Antichrist. "I watched." He is still watching the vision. "The sounds of the pompous words." The arrogant words, the blasphemous words of that man are in the book, written in God's book. God has a strong response against him. "I watched and the beast was slain." They said he was invincible. That is what they will say. But he will be slain. His body will be destroyed and given to the flames. We find out later he is thrown into the lake of fire. That is the flames he is given to, the lake of fire. His physical body is thrown into it alive.

"As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time." Verse 12 is a very unusual verse. There are several implications in verse 12. The four ancient beast kingdoms, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and then the Ancient Roman Empire is the next one. Let's say them again. Babylon, Persia, Greece, and the ancient Roman Empire. Good, you got it. You guys are brilliant. Your mother was right. You are brilliant. Anyway, here is what verse 12 tells us. That there is a vestige of all of those four ancient empires, the people, the geographic territory, the evil spirit that operated through history in those empires, all of them have an expression at the end of the age in the Antichrist Empire. The evil of Rome, the evil of Persia, the greatest demonic activity of Babylon, all of them will have a full and final expression in the

Antichrist Empire. We find in verse 12, though it is 2500 plus years later, the vestiges, the expressions, the evil of those kingdoms, the territory, the people groups related are still functioning. They are all part of the Antichrist Empire, that final stage of the fourth beast. The idea is when the Antichrist is slain, the leaders or the people, we do not know exactly all that this means, but there is something that continues a little longer from those empires that are coming to a culmination together with the Antichrist.

B. **Pompous words:** The Antichrist's arrogant claims will be heard in God's court leading to decrees of judgment issued against him. Daniel emphasized his arrogant words four times (7:8, 11, 20, 25).

C. **Slain:** Daniel described the Antichrist as being slain, destroyed, and consumed (Dan. 7:11, 26).

¹¹ ***...the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame...²⁶ But the court... shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. (Dan. 7:11, 26)***

It says the Antichrist was slain. Verse 11, "He was slain. His body destroyed." Verse 26, "His dominion was consumed and destroyed." We have those three verbs there: slain, destroyed, and consumed.

1. Paul described the Antichrist's defeat using the same verbs as Daniel—consume and destroy.

⁸***The lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)***

Paul used the same verbs—consumed and destroyed—and gives us insight into how the Antichrist is consumed and destroyed. Then John tells us how he is slain. John uses the third verb. Paul says, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, "When the Antichrist is revealed, Jesus will consume him the breath of His mouth, and destroy him by the brightness of His coming." When Jesus marches into Jerusalem with the Antichrist armies around it, led by the most powerful, evil man in history with supernatural demonic power, before whom all the kings of the earth tremble, Jesus stands before him and blows. That is it. The Antichrist is consumed. Completely. I am adding this part: it is like he is completely immobilized, paralyzed, and cannot do anything. Then they capture him. They capture the Antichrist. I do not think that very many people touch the Antichrist. I do not think he is the kind of touchy-feely kind of guy. That is my guess. I do not think too many people get near him. He is consumed by the breath of the Lord. Again, in some way immobilized because we find later he is captured. I assume he is captured in context to the Lord breathing on him and it completely immobilizing him. He is destroyed, his power, his effectiveness, his veneer, his demonstration of power, by the brightness. Jesus gazes at him and breaths on him. His power is completely gone. He is immobilized, his power completely cut off.

2. John saw the Antichrist being captured and "slain" by throwing his body into the lake of fire.

²⁰***The beast was captured, and...cast alive into the lake of fire... (Rev. 19:20)***

John tells us how he is slain. He does not use the word slain, but says he is captured. I believe he is captured as he is immobilized by the gaze and the breath of Jesus. I guess then the angels capture him. I guess that is how it works after Jesus immobilizes him. He is cast alive into the lake of fire; his physical body is thrown into burning flames. Daniel 7:11 tells us that his body is thrown into the flames. In Revelation 19 he is cast alive into the lake of fire. The flames are the lake of fire.

- D. **The rest of the beasts:** This speaks of the people and territory of the former three-beast kingdoms. The Antichrist's kingdom will incorporate the evil of all four kingdoms. The demonic elements of the four empires will be fully expressed in the Antichrist's empire as a "composite fourth beast."

¹²*As for the rest of the beasts...their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (Dan. 7:11-12)*

1. The four former beast kingdoms will "live on" in the future Antichrist beast kingdom. The Antichrist is the "composite beast" in which all the former beast kingdoms will culminate and find expression. He is more than *a* beast, but is *the* beast that incorporates all the former beast kingdoms, including the evil spirits, territory, and ethnicity of the four former kingdoms.
2. The four kingdoms will come to fullness and find expression in the kingdom of the Antichrist. This explains why the Antichrist can be from both the third and fourth beast kingdoms (7:7-8; 8:9; Rev. 13:2). The ancient Roman Empire included the territory of the kingdom of Greece, and the Antichrist will come from one of the four divisions of Greece's ancient empire (8:9).

²*Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard [Greece], his feet were like the feet of a bear [Persia], and his mouth like the mouth of a lion [Babylon]. (Rev. 13:2)*

I want to talk a little bit about the rest of the beasts. The idea is that the four kingdoms, with their evil spirits, the territory, the people groups represented by those kingdoms, are a part of the Antichrist kingdom.

Revelation 13:2, John said, "...the beast"—the Antichrist—"is like the leopard, the bear, and the lion." These are the same beasts of Daniel 7. In other words those kingdoms are incorporated into, expressed through, and given some kind of dimension under the Antichrist. A term that has been used by some theologians quite a few times is "the composite beast." The Antichrist is called the composite beast, because in him the greatest evil of those other empires comes to fullness. I have heard the term and read the term by a number of Bible teachers. They say that the first stage of the fourth beast is the ancient Roman Empire. The final stage is all those four beasts coming together in the Antichrist. Again, a term that has been used in the last ten or twenty years, which I have read a number of times, is the composite beast. I like the term. It is the best term I can think of. He is bringing together the worst of all of those empires.

- E. **Lives were prolonged:** The national identity and lives of the people in the regions of the former three kingdoms will be prolonged until Jesus' judgment of nations after He returns (Mt. 25:31-46). The Antichrist's death will not end the lives of the beasts, but will result in removing their authority.

³¹*"When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

³²*All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*

This is a strange idea. I do not really fully understand it, but the lives of those empires are prolonged. We know the kings are killed, but the empires—the beasts represent not just the rulers but also the empires themselves—they are prolonged for a little while.

We know in Matthew 25 that when Jesus sets up His throne of glory all the nations stand before Him. Somewhere—again, I do not get this. I am not sure of the significance, but I am sure it is significant—those empires, some dimension of them, are prolonged, and they stand before the Lord's judgment of nations when He judges all the nations. Some nations make it, and some nations do not make going on into the Millennial Kingdom. That is what it says in Matthew 25. All the nations are gathered before the Lord in Jerusalem. He determines which are the sheep nations that continue on for 1000 years, and which are the goat nations that are

destroyed. For some reason, a dimension of these empires is prolonged. That is significant. I do not know why. I just know it is significant.

VI. JESUS' HEAVENLY CORONATION AS KING OVER ALL NATIONS (DAN. 7:13-14)

- A. Daniel saw the coronation of Jesus as King of kings with dominion over all the nations (7:13-14).

¹³Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion...and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13-14)

We are to the final part of our session here. In Daniel's vision of Daniel 7, there are quite a few dimensions. In verses 1-8 he sees the four beasts. Verses 9-10, he sees the Father's throne. Verses 11-12 show the defeat of the Antichrist. Verses 13-14 reveal the coronation of the King in heaven with that corresponding coronation of Jesus as King on the earth. The idea is that the two morph together. We see Him being received as King and given dominion over the nations before the Father's throne. That is going to happen before all the eyes of the world. Those are the four parts of the vision. Next week we will look at the rest of the chapter, verses 15 to 27, when the angel comes and breaks down the vision for Daniel. We have the four components now that we have gone over.

Here is the fourth component of the vision. "Behold, one like the Son of Man coming with clouds of heaven. He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him very near. Then to this Man," verse 14, "is given dominion. He is given glory, He is given a kingdom." It is a kingdom, meaning it is one kingdom, singular, that incorporates all the empires and kingdoms of the earth. They are a part of it. "All the peoples, all the nations, all the languages, they should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion. His kingdom, one which would never be destroyed." This is opposite of the Antichrist. The Antichrist was telling the people of the nations, "My kingdom will continue. It cannot be destroyed." I do not know, but I am sure he will give that kind of claim. Here this is the true one.

- B. The Father's eternal plan is to give all the kingdoms of this world to a Man—His Son (Rev. 11:15).

¹⁵And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 11:15)

In the eternal plans of the Father, the world with all the kingdoms are given to a Man—all the kingdoms of the world!

- C. This promise is fulfilled before the nations *in part* in this age, and *in fullness* in the Millennium. IHOPKC holds to the **historic premillennial** view of the end times, with a post-tribulation rapture, emphasizing a victorious, praying Church (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17).
- D. **Son of Man:** Jesus will come to the earth on heavenly clouds and will be seen by every person (Zech. 9:14; 12:10; Mt. 24:30; 26:64; Rev. 1:7). Daniel must have been shocked to see a human standing near to the Ancient of Days. God had told Moses that no man could see God face-to-face and live (Ex 33:20). Though the Son of Man was standing so near to God, He was in no danger.

³⁰The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven [the sky], and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Mt 24:30)

⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Rev. 1:7)

1. Jesus used this term over sixty-five times to describe Himself. He identified Himself as the Son of Man of Daniel 7:13, who sits at the right hand of God and will return to the earth on clouds of heaven. (Mt. 16:27, 24:30, 26:64; Mk. 8:38, 13:26, 14:62; Lk. 9:26, 21:27, 22:69).

This phrase, the Son of Man, is used over sixty-five times by the Lord Jesus Himself. This is the primary term He used to describe Himself. The only time that term is ever used for the Messiah in the Old Testament, before Jesus, is right here in Daniel 7. Every time Jesus says, "I am the Son of Man," or refers to Himself as the Son of Man, He is saying, "Go read Daniel 7 and figure out who I am." There is only one reference, Daniel 7:13-14. "You will see who I am. You will see My origin; you will see My destiny. You will see the nature of who I am. Go to Daniel 7." When He stood before the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin, He said, "The Son of Man will do this and that."

They said, "You say You are the Daniel 7 Man?"

He said, "Yes, that is what I am saying." It was so bold in the eyes of the Pharisees!

They said, "This is outrageous. That is heresy. That makes You like God or something." They did not exactly have it all worked out, but they knew this made Him of another order.

I think it is surprising to Daniel that this is a man. Remember the premise of the Old Testament understanding was that God told Moses no man could see God and live. If a human sees God, the human dies because they are overwhelmed by the glory. Daniel is seeing a man, a human coming to the Father, near to the Father. Daniel is wondering, "How did the human get there and how can he come so close?" Dangerous. You cannot get that close. The seraphim cover their eyes when they get close, but instead of being overwhelmed or instead of being destroyed or killed—like if a man sees the glory of God in his flesh he dies is what God told Moses—this man is given all the kingdoms of the earth forever. Daniel is wondering, "Who is this human?" Daniel knows he is the Jewish Messiah. He is a Jewish man. I think Daniel is perplexed. He is thinking, "How did you get there?"

Beloved, there is a Man on the throne and—I will say it in a strange way—He is lobbying for the human race to partner with Him in control over the whole earth. He is saying, "I am here as a Man. Come, humans, and join Me, receive My salvation, join in My kingdom, become My eternal companion, My bride. Join in and rule the nations with Me." We find out later in verse 27 that He brings the saints to rule with Him. What a remarkable idea! I think Daniel is just overwhelmed. "It is a human near God. All the kingdoms are given to him and then he wants all the people, the other humans who trust him and receive him, to join him in leadership. This is way bigger than I can imagine. What is this?"

2. Jesus will return to earth on clouds (Mt. 24:30; 26:64; Mk. 13:26; Lk. 21:27; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thes. 4:17; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-16; cf. Dan. 7:13; Ps. 68:4; 104:1-3). Transportation in heaven occurs sometimes by the use of clouds. God is described as visiting the earth on clouds (cf. Ex. 13:21-22; 19:9, 16; 1 Kgs. 8:10-11; Ps. 18:10; Isa. 19:1; Jer. 4:13; Ezek. 10:4; etc.).

¹⁴I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵...An angel came out

of the temple, crying..., "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." (Rev. 14:14-15)

⁹ *...while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*
¹⁰ *... as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who also said, "Men of Galilee...this same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)*

We will bring this to an end here. He is coming on clouds and every eye will see Him. He is going to return in clouds.

E. Jesus spoke of sitting on a glorious throne (Mt. 25:31). It will be in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17).

³¹*When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

³²*All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*

¹⁷*"At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)*

His throne of glory will be in Jerusalem.

F. **Commissioned as King of kings:** To this Man was given dominion over all the nations on earth. All peoples, nations, and languages will serve and love Him.

¹¹*Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*

He will be commissioned. He has already been received as King in heaven, but He will be commissioned before all the nations as King. Psalm 72, all the kings of the earth will acknowledge Him as King.

G. **To Him was given dominion:** The end-time Church will declare that Jesus' dominion is everlasting; they will declare this in the face of the Antichrist's false promises of his own global dominion.

I like this. Daniel says, "To this Man, to Him was given dominion." Beloved, I believe this will be one of the phrases the end time church declares. In the face of the Antichrist and all of the Antichrist's emissaries and ambassadors, the church will declare, "Unto this Man, Jesus of Nazareth, dominion has been given. We do not fear you. We do not fear your claims, your threats, or your charges. There is one Man who has already been given dominion." This will be a declaration in spiritual warfare. Right here. This phrase.

H. The Father gave Jesus an unprecedented measure of favor in seven spheres of leadership over the earth. Jesus receives this from the Father and from the response of people on the millennial earth.

¹¹*I heard the voice of many angels...¹²saying..."Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:11-12)*

John saw the reception when Jesus is given all the power, the riches, the wisdom, the strength, the honor, the blessing, and the glory. Notice in Revelation 5:11 He receives these. In what sense does Jesus receive these? I mean He is fully God, fully man, so as God He already has them. How does He receive them? He is God. As a man, in what sense does He receive these? It is as the Son of man He receives them, all seven of these spheres of leadership over society. These are very, very big and grand, glorious truths.

First He receives them from the Father. The Father says, "All the riches on the whole earth are under Your authority. All the power—the power of all the governments of all the empires of the earth—is under Your authority. It is all Yours."

Then in the millennial kingdom, for 1000 years, from the people with natural bodies, He will receive the fruit of all the labors of the earth. They will bring and submit it to Him. He will receive it in that sense as well, and all the governments of the earth, the kings of the nations will say, "Our kingdom is under You. We gladly submit." God the Father gives it to Him by decree, and the nations give it to them in the response of love and submission.

- I. Jesus' inheritance includes having full authority over every sphere of life: power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. There are many aspects implied by each sphere. These are seven manifestations of His leadership and the response of the nations to Him. No other human being has ever possessed total authority across the earth in even one of these areas.
- J. In the Millennium, Jesus will receive the fruit of all **power** (political/spiritual), **riches** (money and natural resources), **wisdom** (insight and intellectual property), **strength** (physical strength, including the labor force and human resources), **glory** (praise and love), **honor** (all will esteem Him by their obedience), and **blessing** (agreement with His policies with unified cooperation).

The power speaks of His political and spiritual authority. All of it will be His. The riches. One Man will control all the natural resources and all the wealth and all the banking institutions of the whole earth in the millennial kingdom. I have some teachings on this on my website where I break down each one of these things.

- K. **You are worthy:** We declare Jesus' incredible worth in three practical ways:

1. *Jesus deserves it:* He is worthy of continual praise as the supreme leader over the earth.

They declare, "You are worthy! You are worthy to receive it. You deserve it. You deserve to be the supreme leader."

2. *Jesus is capable:* He is the only man with the supernatural ability to drive evil off the earth, restore all things to God's original plan, replace all governments, and fill the earth with glory.

Number two, "You are worthy. You are capable." It is one thing for a man to deserve it by his nobility, but who is capable? Who has the wisdom and the power to govern the whole earth? "You are capable."

3. *Jesus is worth it:* He deserves our unqualified trust and sacrificial obedience.

Number three, "You are worthy, You are worth our unqualified trust. You are worth our sacrificial obedience. You are worth it, Jesus. You are the Man."

- L. Revelation 5 describes Jesus' destiny on the earth as a man—He is fully God and fully man. Because of His obedience to death, God highly exalted Him in heaven and on earth (Phil. 2:10). His exaltation is manifest *fully* in heaven, *in part* on earth now, and *in fullness* in the Millennium.

⁹*...God also has **highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,***
¹⁰*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth...*
(Phil. 2:9-10)

Amen and amen.