

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

### **I. OUTLINE OF DANIEL 7:1-14**

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

### **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).

<sup>7</sup>***“I saw...a fourth beast [Antichrist], dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong...” (Dan. 7:7)***

- 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.

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

- 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).

<sup>18</sup>***“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Mt. 28:18)***

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

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

- 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).

<sup>17</sup>***The 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)***

- 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).

<sup>25</sup>***“He...shall persecute the saints...the saints shall be given into his hand...” (Dan. 7:25)***

<sup>5</sup>***He [Antichrist] was given...authority [by God] to continue for forty-two months...***<sup>7</sup>***It 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...***<sup>14</sup>***And he [False Prophet] deceives...by those signs which he was granted to do ...***<sup>15</sup>***He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast... (Rev. 13:5-15)***

### 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.
- 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.
- C. Daniel saw the sovereign Lord seated in His heavenly court, and the books were opened (7:9-10).  
<sup>9</sup>***“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; <sup>10</sup>a 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)***
- 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.
- 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).  
<sup>8</sup>***...fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)***
- 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.
- 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).  
<sup>2</sup>***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)***
- 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).  
<sup>11</sup>***I saw a great white throne...*** <sup>12</sup>***I 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...*** <sup>15</sup>***Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11–15)***

- 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.
- K. **Thrones were put in place:** Even now the elders sit on thrones before the Father.  
<sup>4</sup>***Around 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 administrates God's decrees concerning the earth. History is not spiraling out of control.

#### IV. THE FATHER'S ROYAL COURT

- A. Around the throne is God's royal court. It is the place of majesty, strength, beauty, etc.  
<sup>6</sup>***Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)***
- 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."  
<sup>3</sup>***He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne...like an emerald.*** <sup>4</sup>***Around 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.*** <sup>5</sup>***From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*** <sup>6</sup>***Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:3-6)***
- 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)
- 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).

<sup>11</sup>*I 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. <sup>12</sup>As 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)*

- 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).

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

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

<sup>8</sup>*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)*

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

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

- 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."

<sup>12</sup>*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).

<sup>2</sup>*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)*

- 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.

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

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

## 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).  
*<sup>13</sup>Behold, 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. <sup>14</sup>Then 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)*
- B. The Father's eternal plan is to give all the kingdoms of this world to a Man—His Son (Rev. 11:15).  
*<sup>15</sup>And 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)*
- 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.  
*<sup>30</sup>The 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)*  
*<sup>7</sup>Behold, 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).
  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; 1Kgs. 8:10-11; Ps. 18:10; Isa. 19:1; Jer. 4:13; Ezek. 10:4; etc.).  
*<sup>14</sup>I 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. <sup>15</sup>...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)*  
*<sup>9</sup>...while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>... as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup>who 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)*

- E. Jesus spoke of sitting on a glorious throne (Mt. 25:31). It will be in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17).  
<sup>31</sup>*When the **Son of Man** comes in His glory...then He will sit on the **throne of His glory**.*  
<sup>32</sup>*All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*  
<sup>17</sup>*“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)*
- 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.  
<sup>11</sup>*Yes, **all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.** (Ps. 72:11)*
- 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.
- 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.  
<sup>11</sup>*I heard the voice of many angels...<sup>12</sup>saying...“**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)*
- 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).
- 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.
  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.
  3. *Jesus is worth it:* He deserves our unqualified trust and sacrificial obedience.
- 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.  
<sup>9</sup>*...God also has **highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,***  
<sup>10</sup>*that at the name of Jesus every knee should **bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth...***  
*(Phil. 2:9-10)*