

Daniel 7 Animated Lessons in the Walk of Faith (part 1)

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Introduction: Fascination with the Apocalyptic

- A. Christians & non-Christians have apocalyptic fervor.

- B. Daniel introduces into Biblical literature Apocalyptic genre.
 - i. Different genre, require different methods of reading.

Iain Duguid: *"We instinctively know that a sentence that begins 'The stars will fall from heaven, the sun will cease its shining and the moon will drip blood' will not end 'and the rest of the country will be partly cloudy with scattered showers.' The reason is that we immediately perceive a mismatch between the genres of the two phrases: one is apocalyptic, while the other is a more conventional weather forecast."*

Apocalyptic literature is, in a sense, a pre-printing press, pre-television form of animation: a caricature of cosmic reality.

- C. Think in terms of **theological concepts**, not time-tables.

Daniel's visions are ultimately communicating the same truths as the narratives did, just in a different way.

I. Daniel 7:1-8 Beasts of the Sea are Coming to Get God & You

- A. The forces which come out of the chaotic sea are stirred up by the winds of heaven.

- B. Daniel is not the first in Scripture to represent world empires and their thrones as beasts...
 - Ezekiel 29:3
 - Ezekiel 32:2

- C. Daniel's Four Sea Monsters
 - i. **Like a lion**...had wings of an eagle

- ii. **Like a bear...**with 3 ribs in its mouth...

- iii. **Like a leopard...**with four wings like those of a bird...

- iv. **4th Beast:** terrifying, frightening, and very powerful!
 - a) 10 horns...
 - Psalm 92:10
 - Psalm 89:24
 - Psalm 75:4
 - Psalm 75:5

 - b) A **little horn** which made a lot of trouble
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - 1 John 2:18

Beasts (the kingdoms of this world) are coming out of the chaotic seas in cosmic battle against God, His laws and His people.

The evil behind these empires...

- v. didn't keep Daniel from working hard within them.
- vi. did keep Daniel from putting his hope in political power.
- vii. did cause Daniel to long for and love something much greater than his status in this world!

II. Daniel 7:9-14 The unassailable throne of God

- A. God is not panicked by the assaults on His throne.
 - Hebrews 12:22-23

- B. The whole of world history occurs before a Judge.

- C. Be careful not to hold to a chronology of earthly kingdoms too closely...vs. 12.

III. Daniel 7:13-14 A New Kind of King

- A. A King whose dominion will not pass away.
- B. ***“like a son of man”***

- C. “coming on the clouds of heaven”
 - Psalm 68:4
 - Psalm 104:1-3
 - Isaiah 19:1

- D. He approaches the Ancient of Days...
 - Matthew 26:64-66

- E. Is God relaxing in heaven unaffected by the horror?
 - Revelation 5:5,6

The throne of God is unassailable, but not unaffected.

Beasts (the kingdoms of this world) are coming out of the chaotic seas in cosmic battle against God, His laws and His people. But God who is sovereignly ruling over them, will easily destroy them, but not so easily redeem us. God enters the chaos so He too can be crushed by their iron teeth and bronze claws in order to redeem us into a new kingdom. And He calls us to live by faith till they are judged.

Drawing Lines

*Making the connection between what we “know” about the Gospel
and how we think and live.*

- Why do you think people are easily caught up in the frenzies of apocalyptic hysteria whether “Christian” or “secular”?
- What are some of the evidences in the vision of God's sovereign control over the kingdoms of this world?
- What is significant about the time of this vision (vs. 1) in Daniel's life? What truths do you think Daniel needed to know?
- What does the “like a son of man” imply? How does this text inform us of Jesus meaning in the term “son of man”?
- Does the Bible paint a picture of God sitting in heaven unaffected by the horror of this world's kingdoms? How does Revelation 5:5,6 fill out the picture of the one “like a son of man”?