

Intro- We are in Daniel and weeks ago we came to ch. 7 which brings us to a change in the book.

- * Ch. 1-6 are about historical events given by Daniel, while captive in the Babylonian Empire. (Nebuchadnezzar, the fiery furnace, the lion's den, Belshazzar.)
- * Ch's. 7-12 are about prophecy, as Daniel records several accounts of visions God gave him.
- * We're in Ch. 7 where Daniel was given his first dream and visions, that were prophecies about how the world would progress in his future, and about the final coming of Christ.
- * This dream came to Daniel about 14 years before Babylon was taken by Persia. (Dan about 67)
- * Vs 2-14 give us the dream and its visions, Vs 15-27 give us the interpretation.
- * **Here, an angel gives Daniel a dream that shows him 4 main elements.**

1st- In v2 Daniel's dream displayed the Great Sea (he knew this as the Med sea) and it was being churned up by the 4 winds "of the heavens". (prophetically speaking--)

- We learned that the Sea represents the masses of humanity, the "heavens" represent the earth's atmosphere, and the 4 winds are actually 4 "spirits" (ruwach) that are Satan's high-level ruling demons, who caused unrest and turmoil among the world's people.

2nd- In v3-8, Daniel saw 4 beasts coming up out of the sea of humanity.

- The details of these beasts shows they picture the same 4 world empires Neb. saw in his dream in Ch. 2. And their appearance describes well with what these Empires were like in history.
- In v4- the winged lion represents Babylon, In v5- The vicious bear pictures Medo-Persia, In v6- The 4 headed winged leopard is Greece, and the 4th beast in v 7-8 was so terrifying and frightening, Daniel couldn't name it, and it represents the final world empire of Rome.
- This 4th beast had 10 horns, and a little horn that arose and dominated the others. (later)

- * **Putting all this together with vs 2,** The angel was showing Daniel that through time, Satan would use his **ruling demons** to lead each of these human kingdoms, to stir up humanity by promoting Satan's agenda, which they obviously have done.
- * Looking back over history, we can see that Satan has worked to motivate all kinds of sin in societies such as arrogance, greed, jealousy, hate, dishonestly, falsehood, paganism, (on and on the list goes) all to keep humankind in turmoil, and control them.
- * And over time, Satan has been consistently successful, within God's boundaries. 1

3rd - In v9-10, after the 4th world empire arose from the sea of humanity,

Daniel saw a court room scene in heaven-

- There he saw "the Ancient of Days" dressed in white (purity), seated on His throne in the midst of other thrones, and surrounded by myriads of angels. (obviously God)
- In the vision, God's throne is on fire, and a river of fire flowed out from before Him, showing that after all the world empires have operated in the world, at history's end, God will decisively judge and destroy all those godless cultures.

@@ So Daniel has seen-- Humanity existing in major world empires, living in consistent turmoil from being stirred up by Satan's demons, then God is seated at court, ready to judge.

Now - In v13-14, the 4th and final item Daniel saw was someone important coming into heaven's throne room , and this final scene shows him ---

D. THE FINAL WORLD RULER - AUTHORIZED TO REIGN ON EARTH. (13-14- read)

- * King Nebuchadnezzar was shown this truth in a more subtle way by seeing a large stone, cut out without human hands, that came from heaven, destroyed all the other world Empires, and then set up an empire on earth that would last forever.
- * But Daniel is given much more detail about this final Ruler and His kingdom, and these 2 verses are the main point of Daniel's vision, because this shows Christ being coronated to bring God's kingdom to earth.
- * This information was described by David almost 500 years earlier, in several Psalms. (Ps 2, 72, 89)
- * It was also prophesied in different ways by the prophets near Daniel's time, and prophesied later by the Lord Jesus in Mat 24-25, by Paul in His letters to churches, and then finally in great detail, by John in Revelation.

**@ In this last part of the vision,
Daniel is shown 6 things about this final world Ruler and His kingdom.**

1. This Ruler looks like "a Son of Man". (13b)

- In the OT this term refers to a human, and to Daniel He looked mostly like a human, but the word "like" shows that He appeared to Daniel to be more than just human.
- In the vision, this Person is accepted in God's presence, escorted and presented to God by angels, then given the worship of all the earth's people. (no normal human gets that)
- **Remember, at this time**, Israel knew little of their coming Messiah, because they had fallen into centuries of sin and paganism, and the truth was lost to the populace.
- But as godly Daniel sees this son of Man, from his childhood he may be thinking of David's Psalms which spoke of the coming Messiah and King. (**Ps 2, Ps. 72, 89**)
- In the gospels Jesus called Himself- "the Son of man" 88 times, and "Son of God" 43 times.
- Jesus was born of Mary and of the Holy Spirit, to become the most unique individual in all the universe, the God-man; So He is both- "the Son of man" and "the Son of God".
- **But there is important and strategic** reason the Holy Spirit moved Daniel to use this title as he described and wrote about Who he saw.
- It's because Jesus called Himself the "Son of Man" when He spoke of His 2nd coming, specifically to identify Himself as the One Daniel saw in this vision, 600 yrs earlier.
- * He did this when telling His disciples of His 2nd coming- (**Mat 16:27-28, 19:28, 25:31.**)
- * He did this at His illegal religious trial before the Sanhedrin. (middle of the night)
- In that trial, the High Priest demanded Jesus tell them if He was in fact the Son of God, and Jesus answered with a statement pointing directly to this Vs. in Daniel. (**Mat 26:62-65**)
- In claiming to be "the Son of Man" Jesus deliberately claimed to be the 5th and final world ruler, sent from heaven, that Daniel prophesied about in these 2 verses.
- And the religious leaders knew Daniel's prophecies well, and understood that when Jesus claimed to be- "the Son of Man" from heaven, He was claiming to be "the Son of God", Daniel described, who, in the future, would bring His righteous kingdom to earth.
- This is why they condemned Him, He claimed to be equal with God, and God's Messiah King. (And later Daniel will learn about this Messiah King's death)

Sum- In Daniel's vision, this One who came before the ancient of Days is the Lord Jesus, the King of all things, who will be sent to earth to rule the final world kingdom.

2. This "Son of Man" comes "with the clouds of heaven". (13a)

- In the bible God often used clouds to show himself to His people. God's clouds not only refer to actual clouds, but at times they refer to God's shining clouds of glory.
- In the wilderness, God shaded Israel in the day, with His clouds in the sky, (night pillar of fire).
- And He made His shining cloud of glory rest in the tabernacle, to show He was with them.
- Late in Jesus' ministry, He took Peter, James, and John, up on a mountain to be transfigured before them, where God gave Jesus some of His shining heavenly appearance of light.
- Then God appeared all around them in a shining cloud of His glory, and spoke to them saying - "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!".

- **The bible also shows** that God travels on clouds.

Ps. 104:3- He.. "makes the clouds His chariot". Isa 19:1- "The Lord rides on a swift cloud".

- When Jesus ascended back to heaven in Acts 1, "a cloud received Him out of their sight".
- 1 Thes. 4:17 says- "we shall be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air". (rapture)
- In Rev 1:7 John wrote about Jesus' 2nd coming saying- "He is coming with clouds".

Sum- These clouds represent God's divine presence. This Ruler is not only a man, He is also God, because He travels as God does. This is the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ex. 13:21, 19:9, 24:16, 34:5, Lev 16:2, Mat. 17; Mt 24; Lk. 21; 1 Th 4; Rev 1;)

3. This "Son of Man" is led into the presence of the Ancient of Days. (13c)

- This scene was very common in ancient times, as a king came to his throne, and had his son brought formally before him, so he could bestow ruling authority on him.
- So this is God the Father bringing His Son before His throne in heaven, to commission Jesus to take full and immediate ownership of the earth,
- This fits perfectly with John's detailed account in Rev 4:2-4.
John saw God's throne and the thrones around Him, and there was lightning, rumblings and thunder, which pictures that God was about to judge the world.
- Then in 5:1-8 God has a scroll, and the Lamb of God comes and receives the scroll out of God's hand. This is the title deed to the earth, given to Christ to carry out God's judgment on the earth, set up His kingdom, and rule there forever.

@ Next, Daniel sees 3 main things that the "Son of Man" receives.

4. The "Son of Man... is given authority". (14a) (other versions- "Dominion")

- The word literally refers to- 'ruling authority' that's exact, complete, and absolute, and it's given to Christ to rule His earthly kingdom in 2 ways.

a. When Christ returns, He will have complete authority over humanity.

, In history, nations have had various kinds of leaders. Presidents, prime ministers, kings, queens, and dictators, But none have ever had full ruling authority.

, Even with dictators, at times they are undermined, and when they push too hard on their people, they may be opposed and even overthrown. (Hitler's attempted assassination)

, But Christ will rule completely. No one will vote on Him, no congress veto or impeach Him, no one will protest Him, no lobbyist or special interest group will bribe Him, and no world power like the UN, will call Him on the carpet to be sanctioned.

, Jesus will have full complete 100% authority over all humanity.

, In Mt 11:27 Jesus said- "All things have been committed to me by my Father."

, John 3:35- "The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands".

, In Mat 28:18 Jesus said- "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

, **Phil 2:8-11**. (Joh 5:22; 13:3; 17:2; Ac 2:36; Ro 14:9; 1Co 15:27; Eph 1:10, 21; Heb 1:2; 2:6-8; 1 Pet 3:22)

* In regard to humans, When Christ comes, all sinners will be destroyed, and the kingdom will start, being occupied by God's saints, who are all the saved.

* In His Empire, He will rule perfectly through His glorified people, so that in society, most of those born later will be saved, and those who are not will obey the law, and those who don't, will receive swift and perfect justice, for their crimes.

* There will be, peace, joy, righteousness, full spiritual knowledge, economic prosperity, no starvation. war, tyranny, immorality, irresponsibility, hostility, rebellion, or aggression. All because of the full presence and universal worship of Christ, the complete Ruler.

* And because of this, in His kingdom, our joy and happiness will be full every day.

* And it will be a joy to watch the news.

b. When Christ returns, he will have complete authority over nature.

, When Jesus was here the first time, He showed this authority by stopping a storm.

, When He comes the 2nd time, the Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea prophecy that Jesus will take full authority over this sin cursed earth, and cancel the curse.

, **In Romans 8**, Paul said that because of man's sin, creation is groaning. (20-22)

, In the beginning, God created a perfect world and put Adam and Eve there to enjoy it

Q- But because they sinned and forfeited a perfect heart, God took away our perfect environment, as part of our suffering for sin, to move people to turn to God.

Rebellious sinners could not be left to live in a perfect environment, so God cursed the earth, which is why nature has the same problem we do.

We're imperfect fallen sinners, and right now, God's creation is imperfect and fallen as well.

* This is why we have things like- tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, deserts, weeds, thorns, disease, poison plants, vicious animals, rust, rot, and worst of all- death.

, **But when Christ comes**, His perfect kingdom will begin with only believers present; And with His Word everywhere, and Satan gone, most of those born will be saved.

, So Christ will cancel the curse on creation, because there will be no spiritual need for God to use it to turn people to Christ. His knowledge will be everywhere.

, He will rule in righteousness, in a world of righteous people, and we will live in a glorious righteous physical environment with no flaws.

Isaiah 11:5-8, **Isa 35:5-7**

Sum- There will be absolutely nothing in existence in humanity or creation that will be outside of Christ's full, unhindered, perfect, righteous control.