

Faith under Fire - A Cosmic Battle

Lesson 6 – Daniel 7:1-28

Introduction – Starting in Chapter 7, Daniel changes from Narrative stories to Apocalyptic Literature.

Apocalyptic is a Greek word that means Revelation.

Principles for Applying Apocalyptic Literature:

- 1) Be Reserved – Do not become obsessed with the finer details of the Prophecy. Throughout history, people have incorrectly applied apocalyptic literature to their current world.
- 2) The literature is supposed to be symbolic.
- 3) Numbers are also symbolic.
- 4) Interpret the images based on the understanding of when it was written.

A. The Evil Kingdoms. (Daniel 7: 1-8)

- In Ancient times, they understood the Sea to represent evil, or chaos, or opposition to God in Ancient writings.
- The Beasts are symbols of forces that oppose God and his creation.
- The Beasts could represent Babylon, Persia (and Media), Greece and Rome. But do not get caught up with specific kingdoms, because problems in interpretation will arise.

Takeaway – Evil Kingdoms will dominate our world until God restores his Kingdom. (Evil will Reign)

B. The Courtroom (Daniel 7: 9-14)

- The Ancient of Days represents God as Judge
- The “one like a son of man, “ is also a description of a divine being that ruled over the everlasting Kingdom. Christians would describe this as Jesus who delivered us from evil. The image of riding on a cloud is understood in Old Testament literature and in Ancient writings as one who is God.

Takeaway – Remain Faithful, despite what it seems, because God is in Control.

C. The Victory (Daniel 7:15-28)

- The Little Horn on the Forth Beast – The evil of Pride and being unwilling to submit to God.
- If the Fourth Beast is Rome... There is no longer a Roman empire and then people are attempting to apply a resurrected roman empire to another current country.
- Instead, apply that evil Kingdoms will succeed each other until God comes to intervene.

Takeaway – God will have the Final Victory

Why Is Daniel Troubled at the end? It implies a long time of difficult oppression.

Final Application of Daniel 7:

- 1) **Our present-day world is under the influence of Evil and cruel human power.** – All are Sinners.
- 2) **There is a Cosmic Battle going on between evil and the divine.** – Do not ignore the spiritual Battle.
- 3) **The Guarantee of Victory** – How can we be certain of victory? The Victory was already won at the Cross, which assures us of victory in the end.