



Daniel 7:1-28

DISTRESSING DEVELOPMENTS

8/30/20 AM

Introduction:

I. THE VISION (vs. 1-14)

A. When Daniel Dreamed (vs. 1)

“the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon”

“a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed”

“he wrote the dream down...[a] summary”

B. What Daniel Dreamed (vs. 2-14)

1. Three Similar Empires (vs. 2-6)

“the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea”

“four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another”

“the first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle”

“a second one, resembling a bear”

“another one, like a leopard”

2. One Subsequent Empire (vs. 7-8)

3. The Supernatural Empire (vs. 9-14)

“thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat”

“thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him”

“I kept looking until the beast was slain”

“the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away”

“behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming”

C. What Effect the Dream Had On Daniel (vs. 15 & 28)

“my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.”

“At this point the revelation ended.”

“my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself”

II. THE INTERPRETATION (vs. 16-28)

A. Daniel's Puzzled Request (vs. 16)

“I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this.”

“So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things.”

B. Daniel's Prophetic Review (vs. 17-27)

1. The Five Kingdoms (vs. 17-18)

"These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth."

"but the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever"

2. The Fourth Kingdom (vs. 19-26)

"I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them..."

"...until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One"

"the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom"

"a fourth kingdom...will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it"

"out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them...and will subdue three kings"

"he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One"

"he will intend to make alterations in times and in law"

"they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time"

"the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever"

3. The Fifth Kingdom (vs. 27)

"then the sovereignty...will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One"

"His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom and all the dominions will serve and obey Him"

C. Daniel's Personal Reaction (vs. 28)

"At this point the revelation ended."

"my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale"

"but I kept the matter to myself"

III. THE PROPHETIC IMPORTANCE

A. What is Already Fulfilled?

B. What is Yet to Happen?

Conclusion:

- 1) Since the details of the first three kingdoms have been fulfilled literally, we can be certain that the details of the fourth kingdom will also be fulfilled literally.
- 2) Since it is God who has established all nations, we can be certain that He remains in sovereign control of all things.
- 3) Since all things work together for good to those who love God, we can be certain that God's perfect plan will be accomplished for us.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How does this chapter affect your understanding of prophecy?
- 2) Consider "the Ancient of Days" (AKA "the Most High") and "the One like a Son of Man" (AKA "the Highest One"). What is their relationship?
- 3) What other passages of Scripture speak of the same events in this chapter?
- 4) Is there something we should still "keep to ourselves" (vs. 20)? Why or why not?