
SUNDAY WORSHIP GUIDE
DANIEL 7:1-28

Daniel: Exiles Living With A Future Hope
Daniel 7:1-28

One Thing:

- Our future hope in Christ fuels our present obedience to Christ

Gospel Thinking:

- Biblical apocalypse writing – “Biblical apocalyptic is a revelation of the ending of this present age, which is an age characterized by conflict, and its replacement by the final age of peace. It shows us ahead of time the end of the kingdoms of this world and their replacement by the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. This revelation is unfolded in complex and mysterious imagery, and has the purpose of comforting and exhorting the faithful” – Ian Duguid (Reformed Expository Commentary)
- The theology of apocalyptic writings is a theology of hope
- vv. 17-18 – These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever!
- 3 themes from Daniel’s visions

1. Theme of Opposition

- vv. 17 – These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth
- vv. 21 – As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them
- vv. 25 – He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time

2. Theme of Judgment

- vv. 9-10 – As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened
- vv. 18 – But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever
- vv. 22 – Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom
 - NIV – Until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High
- vv. 26 – But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end

3. Theme of Eternal Reign

- vv. 13-14 – I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And 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, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed

- Mark 10:45 – For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many
- Deuteronomy 6:4 – Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one
- vv. 27 – And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him

“The challenge in Daniel 7 for us is therefore not to work out the specific identity of the different beasts, in case ours should be the final hour. Rather, in the midst of this beastly world, our challenge is to live our lives with our eyes firmly fixed on the heavenly throne room. Instead of being terrified by the beasts, we must daily live remembering the one who will deliver the final and decisive judgment.”

Gospel Living:

1. We expect opposition from earthly kingdoms and their rulers
2. We hope in God’s judgment
3. We will reign with Christ in His kingdom forever