

OBSERVATION FOR DANIEL 7

Who

Speaking- Daniel

Main characters-

What

Subjects being covered

the dreams and visions Daniel has.

Learn about subject or event

It's about future events.

It deals with nations, kings, and dominions.

Learn about people or event

It effects the saints of the Most High God.

God controls and directs all these events.

The sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One.

When

Do or will these events occur

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon (553BC)

Unsure when these events will take place.

Where

Was it said

Written down AFTER he saw the dream and visions as he lay on his bed.

Why

At this time

Babylon is going to be taken over by the Media-Persians and God is revealing to Daniel what is to happen to the Jews.

This person

Has the gift and history of interpreting dreams and visions of others (twice before to kings he served).

How

Is it illustrated

4 beasts

1 with 10 horns, 1 comes out of the ten more powerful than the others.

Although much power shown, God is seen as the one controlling ALL events.

Key Words and Phrases

Dream- i.e., to receive communication from God, in a visual form, and so make something known.

Visions- appearance of something in the mind as a supernatural revelation to communicate a truth, not seen as a sensory perception.

Beasts- monsters, animal-like composites that are awesome and terrifying.

Ancient of Days- Sovereign God

kingdom- royalty, reign, kingdom; a sparial area that is ruled by a king, of varyign sizes.

dominion- supremacy, mastery, i.e., pertaining to ultimate control of a situation, the authority or power to rule; the whole realm, formally, all the dominino of my kingship, i.e., all the territory and people of the kingdom.

horn- a borny growth on the heads of some mammals, with an associative meanings of status, strength, and ability.

judgment- the decision of right and wrong in a legal situation, implying punishment to the wrong-doer; either for punishment or acquittal.

saints- holy ones; holy, separate; one who is a member of a socio-religious group that belongs to the true God.

Lists

What happens to the saints

(18)- will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.

(21)- war is waged against them by the horn.

(22)- the Ancient of Days ends the war started by the horn and passes judgment in favor of the saints, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

(25)- will be worn down by the horn and will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

(26)- after they have been in the hands of the horn for a while, and judgment is passed in their favor, sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven 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.

What the 4 beasts look like

1- like a lion and had the wings of an eagle.

wings plucked; lifted from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind was also given to it.

2- resembling a bear; raised up on one side; three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; it arose and devoured much.

3- like a leopard; had 4 wings of a bird on its back; four heads and dominion was given to it.

4- dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; had large iron teeth; devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; different from all the beasts that were before it; had 10 horns; a little horn came up among them and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

Glimpses of the Ancient of Days

Sat on His seat

Vesture was like white snow

hair was like pure wool

Throng ablaze with flames

Wheels were a burning fire

River of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him

Thousands upon thousands were attending Him

Myriads upon myriads were standing before Him.

The court sat, and the books were opened.

One like a Son of Man came up and was presented before Him

AofD give Him dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him.

(18) Gives the kingdom and possession of the kingdom forever to His saints, for all ages to come.

(22) Comes and passes judgment in favor of the saints of the Highest One.

(25) the horn will speak out against the AofD and will wear down the saints of the Highest One.

What happens to the boastful horn

came up among the other horns and was small

three of the other horns were pulled out by the roots before it.

possessed eyes like the eyes of a man.

possessed a mouth uttering great boasts.

uses many boastful words

is slain and body is destroyed and given to the burning fire.

(20) larger in appearance than its associates.

(21) wages war with the saints and overpowering them until the AofD came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

(24) the horn will arise after the 10 horns and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

(25) will speak out against the most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One;

(25) he will intend to make alterations in times and in law.

(25) the saints will be given into his hand for time, times, and half a time.

(26) at the court of judgment, his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

Son of Man stuff

Came up to the Ancient of Days

Was presented before the Ancient of Days

Was given (by the AofD) dominion, glory, and a kingdom (that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him).

Dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away;
His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

Compare and Contrasts

The little horn and the Son of Man

destroys, crushes, tramples down, boastful. power given for a period of time. enemies are the saints.
given power and authority that will last for eternity, in an everlasting dominion and a kingdom that will not pass away or be destroyed. loves and protects the saints.

The four beasts and the saints

rise up from the earth and have dominion for a while.
receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever.

Expressions of Time

(1)- In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon (553BC)

(2)- by night

(4,6,7,9,11,11,13,15,21)- kept (looking)

(8)- while

(11,19,27)- then

(11,22,)- until

(12)- an appointed period of time

(14,27)- everlasting

(14)- will not pass away

(18)- forever

(18)- for all ages to come

(22)- the time arrived

(25)- a time, times, and half a time

(26)- forever

(28)- at this point

Chapter Theme

The future hope for the Jews

Present pain leads to future joy

What the Jews can expect to happen

Daniel's vision: The four beasts, the little horn, and the Son of Man

Lessons for Life

- The God-follower knows God is all-powerful and in control of all of life's situations, even the bad ones.
- Earthly rule lasts for only a time and is only within certain perimeters, God's rule is eternal and sovereign.
- Present suffering will end in future glory!
- Christ is given eternal authority OVER worldly power.
- Expect suffering, testing, and trials in this life from those against God.

INTERPRETATION

As the Babylonian empire shifts from Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar and his father, Daniel (and the Jews) must have wondered what was to take place. They had learned their lesson, they got the point, their discipline (they thought) was ready to be finished. And yet they sat. And with the passing of Nebuchadnezzar to his son, the Jews position didn't change one bit. Had their God rejected them after all? Was He as powerful as the gods of the Babylonians? What about the covenant He had promised? What was going and for how long?

And so the dreams and visions come to Daniel at night, dreams that were very unnerving to Daniel. Visions of 4 beasts and 10 horns and a smaller horn that comes from/after the 10 and creates much havoc. That havoc is aimed at world domination, and he seems to have his sights on God and His people, Israel. The little horn wages war against the saints, and wears them down and even plans to change the way things are appointed to happen (according to God's plan).

In time, after the appointed time has been completed, the horn is slain, its body destroyed and given to the burning fire.

At that time, the kingdom will be given to one like a Son of Man and is given by the Ancient of Days, dominion, glory, and a kingdom that all people everywhere might serve Him. For His dominion is everlasting and will not pass away and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

For even though the beasts and the horns rise up, and the little one causes great pain, destruction, and loss to the saints, the Ancient of Days is still in charge, still setting the times and perimeters of the beasts, and will one day give the eternal kingdom to His saints.

However, in the mean time, the saints will suffer at the hands of the Gentile kings who arise, and will suffer greatly when the little horn arises. However, God is still sovereign, is still for His people, and will one day give them the great reward and blessing.