

PoliticKING | The Sitting Son

Daniel 7:1-18

Announcements

- Visitors
- Midweek
- Community Groups
- Raising Up Conference
- Becky
 - Nursery Volunteers
 - Cry Room

Text

[1] In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. [2] Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. [3] And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. [4] The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. [5] And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' [6] After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. [7] After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. [8] I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

*[9] "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.*

*[10] A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;*

*the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.*

[11] "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. [12] As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Prayer

Daniel 7:1-18

- Context
 - Babylonian Exile — Jews have no civil rights (30-yrs earlier)
 - A new “president”
 - Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson (v. 1: *"the first year of Belshazzar"*)
 - Ascends 9 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s rule
 - 9-years without a word from God — just quiet faithfulness to God
 - A life filled with danger
 - In Jerusalem leading up to Exile (3 Babylonian invasions)
 - Throughout the Exile (Persians on the rise...)
 - Multiple Despotic Emperors
 - "Front page" issues: political intrigue, diplomacy, threat of war, annihilation, and severe racial discrimination...all normal aspects of Daniel's life.
 - Trust: Faithful service and worship throughout all the danger and fear.
- Verses 1-8 — The four beasts [**EMERGING FROM SEAS STIRRED BY THE WINDS OF HEAVEN, vs. 2]**

Babylon, verse 4: *"The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it."*

- Lions and Eagle — Jeremiah of Nebuchadnezzar in Jer. 49:19-22 (majesty and power of Babylon)
- Wings plucked off, made to walk on two feet, mind of man given to it — Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation, made to walk like a beast...

Daniel 4:34-37: *"At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; [35] all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

God is sovereign over all politics!

Media-Persians, vs. 5: *And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'*

- Bear — Devours and is dangerous
- Raised up on one side — Unequal power shared by this Empire merger
- Three ribs — Babylon, Lydia & Egypt?

Greeks, vs. 6: *"After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it."*

- Greeks — divided into four massive empires after ATG
- Leopard, wings — Speedy, Swift (ATG conquered world by early 30s)

Rome (the time of Jesus), verses 7-8

- *[7] After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were*

before it, and it had ten horns. [8] I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

- Can't be compared to animals — entirely different kind of empire
- Double the amount of horns
- Little horn — Caesar? Antichrist?
- Rome surpassed all the other empires in power, longevity, influence, ruthlessness, in dominance.

Transition: This sample of world empires represents all human governments and how they are innately corrupt and opposed to God.

- This doesn't mean we abandon our government or political engagement.
- It does mean we need to beware of loving government too much.
- Daniel: Prayed 3 times per day toward Jerusalem – it was about a bigger story

The Story to which Daniel Daily Turned His Eyes... (NOTE THE POETRY)

[9] "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; [beauty] 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. [10] A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; [contrasted fiery furnace — judgment; rule] a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. [Currently assessing the nations...watching]

[11] "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. [12] As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

- Verses 9-12 — God's sovereignty over the nations

Conclusion

- God is sovereign over all the earth...right now.
 - 100 children in Aleppo, Syria are killed due to the civil war raging there;
 - When children and a teacher are shot on a school playground by a unstable teenager who just murdered his father;
 - When 52m children have been aborted from 1970-2012
 - Remember that God was encouraging the Jews with this prophecy.
- Our righteous works must outpace our self-righteous ranting.
 - Email me if you want to be part of a Justice Think-Tank...
- We don't have to fight for power because we will be in charge one day.
 - We will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, vs. 18 (*"But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever."*)
 - John 18:36: *"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.'"*
- We are called to faithfully serve and worship throughout all the uncertainty.
 - Like Daniel, we serve Babylon, but we don't put our hope in it.
 - We ground ourselves (primarily through prayer) in God's politick.