

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

- I. Daniel's Exile to **Babylon** (1:1-21)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's *Troublesome* Dream (2:1-49)
- III. Nebuchadnezzar's *Threat* against the Jews (3:1-30)
- IV. Nebuchadnezzar's *Teaching* in Humility (4:1-37)
- V. God's *Termination* of the **Babylonian Kingdom** (5:1-31)
- VI. Daniel's *Trial* in the Lion's Den (6:1-28)

VII. Daniel's *Testimony* of His Visions Prophetic Revelation (7:1-12:13)

1. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts (7:1-8)

⁷ In the **first year** of **Belshazzar king** of **Babylon** **Daniel** saw a dream and visions in his mind *as he lay* on his bed; then he **wrote** the **dream down** and related the *following summary* of it.

² **Daniel** said, "*I was looking* in my **vision** by night, and behold, the **four winds** of **heaven** were stirring up the **great sea**."

³ And four great beasts were **coming up** from the **sea**, *different* from one another.

⁴ The **first** was *like* a **lion** and had *the wings* of an **eagle**. I kept looking until its **wings** were *plucked*, and it was **lifted up** from the ground and made to **stand on two feet** like a **man**; a **human mind** also was given to it.

⁵ And behold, **another beast**, a **second one**, resembling a bear. And it was **raised up** on **one side**, and **three ribs** were in its **mouth** between its **teeth**; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, **devour** much meat!'

⁶ After this *I kept looking*, and behold, **another** one, *like* a leopard, which had on its back **four wings** of a **bird**; the **beast** also had **four heads**, and **dominion** was given to it.

⁷ After this *I kept looking* in the night **visions**, and behold, a fourth beast, **dreadful** and **terrifying** and **extremely strong**; and it had **large iron teeth**.

It **devoured** and **crushed** and **trampled down** the **remainder** with its **feet**; and it was **different** from **all** the **beasts** that were before it, and it had ten horns.

⁸While I was contemplating the **horns**, behold, **another horn, a *little one*, came up** among them, and **three** of the **first horns** were **pulled out** by the **roots** before it; and behold, **this horn** possessed **eyes** like the **eyes of a man** and a ***mouth*** uttering **great boasts**.

2. The *Vision* of God (7:9-10)

⁹***I kept looking*** until **thrones** were **set up**, and the **Ancient of Days** ***took his seat***;
His vesture was like ***white snow***
and the **hair of His head** like ***pure wool***.
His throne was ***ablaze*** with flames,
its ***wheels*** were a ***burning fire***.

¹⁰***A river of fire*** was flowing
and **coming out** from **before Him**;
thousands upon thousands were **attending Him**,
and **myriads upon myriads** were standing **before Him**;
the **court sat**, and the **books** were **opened**.

3. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts Continued (7:11-12)

¹¹Then ***I kept looking*** because of the **sound** of the **boastful words** which the **horn** was **speaking**;
I kept looking until the **beast** was **slain**,
and its **body** was **destroyed** and **given** to the **burning fire**.

¹²As for the **rest** of the **beasts**, their **dominion** was **taken away**, but an extension of **life** was granted to them for an **appointed period of time**.

4. The *Vision* of the “Son of Man” (7:13-14)

¹³***I kept looking*** in the **night visions**,
and behold, with the **clouds** of **heaven**
One like a Son of Man was **coming**,
and **He came up** to the **Ancient of Days**
and was ***presented*** before **Him**.

¹⁴“And **to Him** was given **dominion**,
glory and a **kingdom**, that **all** the ***peoples***,
nations and **men** of every **language** might **serve Him**.

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

Summary Observations

Daniel's *Visions* of the “Ancient of Days” and the “Son of Man”

Observations→The Ancient of Days:

→ He is the Ancient of Days -- “Attiq Yomim”— One who is “advanced in days,” whose days are past reckoning—the Sovereign God, and *Eternal King*.

I kept looking until 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; (7:9a, 10a)

→ He is seated among the “thrones” as the *Eternal Judge*.

I kept looking until thrones were set up,
and the Ancient of Days took *His seat*;...

The court sat, and the books were opened. (7:9a, 10b)

→ He is Holy and Pure in appearance.

His vesture was white like snow
and the hair of His head like pure wool. (7:9b)

→ His throne is *ablaze* with flames, and a “river of fire” was flowing—representing the righteous judgment of God.

His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire.
A river of fire was flowing
and coming out from *before* Him; (7:9c-10a)

Observations→The Son of Man:

→ He comes with the clouds of heaven, and is “like a Son of Man.”

I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,...(7:13)

→ He is presented before the Ancient of Days.

...and He came up to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before Him. (7:13c)

→ He is given **dominion, glory** and a **kingdom**, and *all* peoples and **nations** will **serve Him**.

And to **Him** was given a **dominion, glory** and a **kingdom**, that **all** the **peoples, nations and men** of every language might **serve Him**. (7:14a)

→ His **dominion** and **kingdom** are **everlasting**, and will **not** pass away or be **destroyed**. (7:14b)

His **dominion** is an **everlasting dominion**...(7:14b)

Key Question → So Who is this “Son of Man”?

According to the great medieval Jewish scholar **Rashi**,
the **Son of Man** is **King Messiah**
(Artscroll Tanach pg. 1796)

According to **New Testament Scripture**,
Jesus is the “**Son of Man**”

1. **Jesus, God’s eternal Son**, was **born** of a **woman**, and having “**put on**” **humanity**, **He** was indeed a “**son of man**.” (Galatians 4:4, Philippians 2:5-8, Matthew 1:16)

Jesus designated Himself as *the* “**Son of Man**” over **80** times in the **New Testament**. **He** declared Himself to be the “**Son of Man**,” for **He** is the **One** of whom **Daniel** wrote in his *vision* of the **Son of Man**. (Daniel 7:13-14)

And **He (Jesus)** said to him, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, you will see the **heavens** opened and the **angels of God** **ascending** and **descending** on the **Son of Man**.”(John 1:51)

2. In **Daniel’s vision**, the **Son of Man** came with the “**clouds of heaven** (7:13).” **Jesus** not only **ascended** to heaven in a **cloud** (Acts 1:9), but **He** promised to **return** “on the **clouds** of the sky...”

And then the **sign** of the **Son of Man** will appear in the **sky**,
and then all the tribes of the earth will **mourn**,
and they will see the **Son of Man** **coming on the clouds** of the **sky**
with **power** and **great glory**. (Matthew 24:30)

Behold, **He is coming** with the **clouds**, and every eye will **see Him**,
even those who **pierced Him**; and all the **tribes** of the **earth**
will **mourn** over **Him**. So it is to be. Amen. (Revelation 1:7)

3. In **Daniel’s vision**, the **Son of Man** was **presented** before the **Ancient of Days**, and to **Him** would be given **dominion, glory**, and a **kingdom**. At that time, **all** the

peoples and nations would pay **homage**, and **serve Him**. (7:13c-14a)

Both *before His death*, and *after His resurrection*, **Jesus** revealed that **He** would **ascend** to **His Father** in **heaven**. The scriptures declare that **Jesus (the Son of Man)** would receive *dominion, glory*, and a *kingdom*, and that **all** peoples and nations would **praise** and **serve Him**.

Jesus said to **her (Mary)**, "...go to **My brethren** and say to them, 'I **ascend** to **My Father** and **your Father**, and **my God** and **your God**.'" (John 20:17)

Being found in **appearance as a man**, **He (Jesus)** **humbled Himself** by becoming **obedient** to the point of **death**, even **death on a cross**.

Therefore also **God** has **highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on **Him** the name which is **above every name**, so that at the name of **Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW**, of those who are in **heaven** and on the **earth** and **under the earth**,... (Philippians 2:8-10)

And I saw between the **throne** (with the four living creatures) and the elders **a Lamb** standing, as if **slain**, having **seven horns** and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits of God**, **sent out** into all the **earth**...

Then I looked, and I heard the **voice** of **many angels** around the **throne** and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was **myriads of myriads**, and **thousands of thousands**, saying with a loud voice,

"**Worthy** is the **Lamb** that was **slain** to receive **power** and **riches** and **wisdom** and **might** and **honor** and **glory** and **blessing**."

¹³ And **every created thing** which is in **heaven** and on the **earth** and **under the earth** and on the **sea**, and all things **in them**, I heard saying,

"To **Him** who **sits** on the **throne**, and to the **Lamb**, **be blessing** and **honor** and **glory** and **dominion** **forever and ever**." (Revelation 5:6, 11-13)

Then the **seventh angel** sounded; and there were **loud voices** in **heaven**, saying,

"The **kingdom** of the **world** has become ***the kingdom*** of our **Lord and of His Messiah**; and **He** will **reign** **forever and ever**." (Revelation 11:15)

Closing Comments