

CALL to PRAYER - Offer a prayer of adoration for the perfections of God's character

## *Daniel 7:1-14 - Be Thou Our Vision*

Intro - We are called to walk by faith and not by sight. This does not mean that faith is a *blind faith* or a *leap into the dark*...just the opposite...faith is a *leap into the light*. Faith sees by the light of heaven. We are called to view things in the light of God's Word. His words are a lamp unto our feet & light unto our path. God illumines things about our world, our life, history, society, and eternity. God has been so good to speak to us about these things and we should view all these realms through eyes of faith. People of faith believe what God has said & they look unto Jesus who is the Author & Finisher of our faith. We are to keep our eyes fixed on Him and keep on believing in Him. In Chapter 7 God gave Daniel a vision of the future and a glimpse of Himself. We get the privilege of peaking in on his private viewing. *The Prophetic & The Majestic*

### THE PROPHETIC

- Daniel 7 is the halfway point in the book and is a transition chapter.
  - 1-6 are primarily historical narrative with some prophecy mixed in.
  - 7-12 are primarily prophetic with some historical narrative mixed in.
  - 1-6 are in chronological order beginning with Daniel as a teenager till his 80's.
  - 7 fits chronologically between 4&5...but begins this prophetic section of visions.
    - 7:1 - "...first year of Belshazzar..." (Belshazzar died in chapter 5)
- This prophecy was something seen and written down.
  - 7:1
  - 13 x's in first 13 verses - looked/ saw/ vision
  - God's revelation is not imagination - it is an observation & conversation - 1 John 1:1
  - Scripture = God's written revelation of things seen, heard, experience, taught etc.
    - Rev. 1:11 Ex. 24:4 Deut. 31:24 John 20:30-31
  - Daniel was given just a ½ dozen visions during his entire life...
    - ...we have been given the entire Bible.....how blessed are we?!
    - We have a more sure word of prophecy - 2 Peter 1:19
- This prophecy is similar to Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Dan.2
  - World empires...prewritten history...earthly realm is ruled over by the heavenly
    - 7:17-18 Babylon/Persia/Greece/Rome/Christ
  - This prophecy is given in a different form from chapter 2 along with more details
    - Statue of 4 metals -vs- 4 Ferocious Beasts Rock that destroys statue -vs- Son of Man who judges/rules/reigns
- General observations about these successive earthly kingdoms
  - They go from the more regal (lion w/ human makings- 7:4) to the more brutal (mongrel beast - 7:7)
    - In ch. 2 the metals decreased in value but increased in strength gold > iron
    - Governments get less impressive but more oppressive over time.
  - History is on a trajectory to be ruled over by a *Beast*.
    - Rev. 13:1-2
    - The final iteration will be a vicious combination of previous empires.

- These kingdoms are Heaven's institution but are given limited duration.
  - Stirred up by the 4 winds <sup>(breaths/spirits/ angels?)</sup> of heaven - 7:2 Rom. 13:1
  - Given dominion/power for a while then it's taken away - 7:6, 12
- These kingdoms rise from below... <sup>out of the depths of the sea - 7:3</sup>
  - We are to notice them, <sup>but not only them</sup> we are also to see something else.
  - We must lift up our eyes and behold another King and Kingdom - Ps. 121:1-2

### THE MAJESTIC

- 7:9 *"I kept looking..."*
  - Don't cease looking after you look at the mess in the world
    - Look up! <sup>Turn your eyes upon Jesus</sup>
  - We can often get so fixated on the gore of this world that we overlook the glory of the One who rules over this world. By faith notice the majestic
- God is on His throne. 7:9b
  - Is. 66:1 Psalm 103:19
  - *Be Thou my Vision...High King of heaven*
- God is not a newcomer
  - He is the Ancient of Days - 7:9c
  - Everlasting King - Jer. 10:10      Ps. 90:2      Rev. 4:9-11      1 Tim. 1:17
    - Man and his kingdom don't last... but God is everlasting.
- God is holy, pure and wise 7:9d
  - Is. 6:3 Habakkuk 1:13      Rom. 16:27
- God is a consuming fire 7:9e
  - Wow! What a sight to see by eyes of faith
  - Hebrews 12:28-29
- God is The Judge with many attending Him 7:10
  - A fiery and holy courtroom
  - many holy angles as court clerks/sergeant of arms/ officers to carry out verdict.
  - Heaven's court is a court of justice that goes by The Book - 7:10c
    - Rev. 20:12 Jer. 17:1
- This is amazing but we must keep looking...and looking up - 7:13
  - We must look beyond what is coming up from the depths and look to the clouds
  - Beastly rulers come from below, but a Heavenly Ruler descends from above
- Son of Man
  - This is Jesus' most frequent title He applies to Himself 80+ x's?
  - Jesus is the Judge - John 5:27
  - He is coming in the clouds and every eye will see Him - Matt. 24:30; 26:64
- Jesus Christ is not just a local lord only over a small ethnic group
  - Christ has a universal rule over everything and everyone 7:14
  - King of kings and Lord of lords Phil. 2:9-11
- Prophecy and Majesty
  - The Prophetic - beastly rulers will rise and will be given temporary reign
  - The Majestic - *"Turn you eyes upon Jesus....."*