

1. Last week I taught Dan 7:7 and 8 when time ran out we were studying verse nine.
2. Before continuing I want to provide an expanded translation of Dan 7:1-8:

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar in approximately 550 B.C., Daniel had a dream; he was lying on his bed when he saw several visions. He recorded the visions in summary fashion in his diary.

Dan 7:2 Daniel recorded "In my vision at night while I was lying in my bed I looked up and saw the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea - the Mediterranean Sea.

Dan 7:3 Four dreadful creatures, each different from the other, arose out of the sea; the sea represented the vast confused gentile world.

Dan 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle;" this first creature represented Babylon; I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it; here we have a reference to Nebuchadnezzar's bout with his zoanthropic malady, his temporary demise as ruler of Babylon and his recovery after his regeneration.

Dan 7:5 And then I saw a second awful creature, it looked like a bear. The beast represented the Medo Persian Empire. The giant grizzly had raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs protruding between its teeth. The three ribs represented Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; these were three nations recently conquered. A command from one standing near-by said, 'Get up and eat more!'

Dan 7:6 And then I saw another beast rise out of the sea, one that looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule;" the nature of the leopard and its winged back spoke of Alexander the Great's speed of conquest when he would conquer the world in 12 short years. The four heads given authority represented his four generals who would rule the Hellenistic Empires; the four generals being Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucid.

Dan 7:7 As I slept in my bed I saw a fourth beast more terrifying and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth and what it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts ... and it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 Just as I was thinking about these horns, a little horn appeared before me; and three of the other horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a human and its mouth spoke boastfully of the things which he would do; he was particularly critical of God.

1. As we prepare to study verse nine I want to borrow from Dr. David L. Cooper who has written, and I shall paraphrase: "To understand these verses the student needs to dream along with Daniel by picturing in his or her mind a split screen. The screen has a horizontal line dividing the monitor in half.

The top screen shows what is going on in heaven as the Ancient of Days sits on His throne and the Lord Jesus Christ is summoned in preparation for His return; while the bottom half displays the terrible beast, The Revived Roman Empire, perpetrating his terror on mankind and planet earth."

2. Now let's see what we can glean from verse nine.

KJV

Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

NIV

Dan 7:9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze..."

Principles

1. Our scene now shifts from earth to heaven. Daniel sees a series of visions which tell pictorially what happens just before the Second Advent of Christ.
2. First he is given a picture of God the Father making preparation for the coming into His presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Daniel is privileged to see the Father as the "Old One" the Ancient of Days making ready for the triumphant return of His Son.
4. This is the only place in the Bible where we see the term Ancient of Days and here we find it three times in our context. It literally means the Old Man with the Authority as the source of time.
5. That He is said to be the Ancient of Days stresses His "foreverness" or as we like to say the eternal life aspect of His essence.

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

5.2 The Thrones being established speak of God's majesty or as we also like to say "His Sovereignty." God is the Sovereign God of the universe; nothing happens but for the permissive will of God and this includes the establishment of each nation, its leadership and its role--also in the Tribulation.

5.2.1 There is no higher power or higher volition.

5.2.2 All things are subject unto Him.

5.2.3 Everything falls under the permissive will of God.

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psa 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psa 104:17 There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the pine trees.

Psa 104:18 The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the coney (animals and birds seeking shelter).

Psa 104:19 The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.

Psa 104:20 You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

Psa 104:21 The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

Psa 104:22 The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.

Psa 104:23 Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening.

Psa 104:24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Psa 104:25 There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number-- living things both large and small.

Psa 104:26 There the ships that go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

Psa 104:27 These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

Psa 104:28 When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

Psa 104:29 When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

Psa 104:30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Psa 104:31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works--

Psa 104:32 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

Psa 104:33 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psa 104:34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

Psa 104:35 But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Phi 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phi 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isa 45:23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

Rom 14:11 It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."

Rev 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

5.3 He is said to be dressed in garments of white; this speaks to His Holiness.

Psa 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

5.4 The fact that His hair is said to be white would seem to emphasize His age and thus His supreme wisdom and authority. Remember age was and still is respected in the oriental world and this was certainly true in Israel, Babylon and Persia.

5.5 His throne was seen flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. Such speaks of His capacity for being everywhere to judge with a vengeance.

5.5.1 All judgment of course coming from His holiness which is made up of His righteousness and His justice.

Psa 50:3 Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages.

Psa 50:4 He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people:

Psa 97:3 Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

Psa 97:4 His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

Psa 97:5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.  
Psa 97:6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

6. Wycliffe writes: "This throne scene is fully elaborated in Rev chapters 4-20. Evidently the five verses of Daniel cover the same ground as the seventeen chapters of Revelation. It is a judgment scene wherein the Ancient of days - none other than "the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity" - takes possession of the earth's kingdoms through the Son of man - a name our Lord clearly claimed for himself (Mat 24:30)."

Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Rev 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Rev 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Rev 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Rev 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Rev 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Rev 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

7. The dramatic action whereby the beast's kingdom is violently taken away fits the many Biblical predictions of the manner in which our Lord will judge the nations at the close of the Tribulation.

8. Now let's take a look at an expanded translation of Dan 7:9:

Expanded Translation:

Dan 7:9 Suddenly my eyes were lifted toward heaven for there I saw thrones being set in place by none other than God the Father, the Ancient of Days, Who took His seat in the middle of the Throne Room of Heaven. He wore a robe as white as snow signifying His absolute Righteousness; the hair of His head was white and thick like wool, a sign of His earned respect. His throne was set high, it was surrounded by flaming fire, the throne had wheels which were all ablaze to describe His omnipresent nature and severe judgment upon all who deny His authority, rule and protocol...

9. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 7:10.

KJV

Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

NIV

Dan 7:10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Principles:

1. The river of fire coming out from the Father is again a representation of His severe judgment about to be hurled upon planet earth. As we saw in Psa 50:3 and Psa 97:3 fire is used to portray the righteous judgment of God.

2. The Antichrist and his subalterns will soon be thwarted and both he and the False Prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

3. Notice the first two to be cast into the Lake of Fire says Chapter 19 are the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

4. The billions of angels before Him are I suspect the elect angels who serve Him. The term "Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him" may simply describe "a vast number"; there is really no way of knowing if a literal or figurative interpretation is appropriate.

4.1 A proper translation might simply be "myriads of elect angels bow and worship Him; they are faithful ministers who do the will of God".

5. It would seem all of heaven is ready for God's judgment of Satan and his minions.

6. The verse tells us the Supreme Court of Heaven is about to judge those on planet earth; the judgment will manifest itself in the authorization for Christ to descend and destroy those who have for seven years tormented the planet.

7. The books are said to be opened. Given the context the books referenced are no doubt the acts and deeds of the nations and the unbelievers of the Tribulation.

7.1 It is also quite possible the books might also include those things designed of God for the planet which since the fall have been in open rebellion against God.

8. God no doubt has a library (perhaps merely an anthropomorphism and/or anthropopathism); surely in His library are the Old and the New Testaments.

End Lesson Taught 3-3-2002