

# GROWTH + GROUPS

## NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 03.10.2024

THY KINGDOM COME (Part 2)- DANIEL 7:15-28

### PART 1: Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

In Daniel 7, we learn that the King who was revealed, rejected, and risen, is getting ready to return to establish His kingdom on earth. We're going to look at that today, but before we do, there's some other things we need to talk about first, but as a reference point, we are going to start with a bit of review. In our last study, we noted that Daniel's vision consists of three parts. In the first part, we see the kingdoms of men portrayed as beasts which arise out of the sea. In the second part of the vision, we see the kingdom of Satan, which is headed up by anti-Christ. Then in the third part of the vision, we see the establishment of God's everlasting kingdom. In our study last week, we looked at the four kingdoms of men as well as the coming kingdom of Satan. Today, we'll pick up where we left off and dive back in because there are a few things I wanted to talk about last week that we didn't have time to get into. Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel's sermon?

Daniel began to see visions in the first year of Belshazzar, approximately 553 B.C. By that time Daniel was probably a man in his mid-60s. The beginning of chapter 7 describes a dream composed of several visions. The images in his visions included the four winds, the great sea, and four huge beasts, which Daniel described in some detail. The four beasts have been interpreted to represent the world powers of Daniel's day—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. As his visions continued, Daniel saw One like a son of man, meaning this person was in human form. Jesus regularly referred to Himself as the Son of Man. The scene depicts Jesus the Messiah as being submissive to the Ancient of Days and obedient to His will. Just as God, the Ancient of Days, has authority to set up and to destroy the kingdoms of this world, He also has authority to empower His Messiah to rule.

### PART 2: Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 7:15-18

1. Why do you think these visions made Daniel anxious?
2. What did he do when he was worried? What lesson can you learn from this?
3. What kings might be represented by these four beasts?
4. What clues do you see in the beasts' appearance that can link them to specific kingdoms?
5. How should a believer react to this vision (18)?

There will be many times we are confused or anxious. When you have those feelings, go to the source of all wisdom. There is only One who can solve all of your problems. The interpretation was given to Daniel, "Ask and you shall receive." Daniel asked what it meant, and he was told the answer. The given interpretation is very simple. The four beasts are four kings. Though they have dominion for a time, it is the saints of the Most-High who shall receive the kingdom. Daniel lived in a time when darkness seemed to reign. Judah was defeated. He and his friends were exiles in a strange, foreign land. Idolatry dominated every aspect of culture. Violence, pride, and selfishness were rampant. He needed a reminder that these things were temporary. In the end, God wins. We too need that same reminder, and that is the lesson of Daniel 7.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 7:19-28**

1. How was the fourth beast different from the others?
2. What do the horns on its head represent?
3. Who do you think the one horn in verse 20-21 represents?
4. What will this person be like? How long will he rule (25)?
5. What might it mean that he wants to change the times and the law?

**READ REVELATION 13:1-10 -**

1. What picture does John paint of this ruler we call the Anti-Christ and how is this similar to the “little horn?”
2. How are the descriptions of the beast similar to that of Daniel 7?
3. In Rev 13:5-8, how is the anti-Christ described and how will the world react to him in the last days?
4. How will this kingdom and ruler meet its end? (Dan. 7:26)
5. What will happen to the saints of the Most High? (Dan 7:27)

**PART 3: Applying God’s Word**

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

The Antichrist is going to wage war on God’s people and all believers, but in the end, it is God’s people who prevail. In the midst of telling us about the antichrist, Daniel is careful to tell us repeatedly that the good guys are the ones who come out on top. In verse 18, he says, ‘the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever.’ In verse 22 he again says that the holy people are the ones who will end up possessing the kingdom. And then in verse 27, he tells us that after Jesus comes back, ‘all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High.’ Jesus told His disciples that, ‘it was the Father’s good pleasure to give them the kingdom.’ That is what we see described in these verses. This is your future! John describes what it’s going to be like when Jesus returns in detail in Revelation 19.

1. Should we be distressed or surprised by the state of the world we live in or the direction we believe we are headed? What hope do we have in those moments?
2. In what situation do you need to be teachable before God right now? What is hard about that?
3. How can we as a community of faith live and minister with God’s eternal kingdom in our sight?

**PRAYER:** Praise God for His eternal kingdom ruled by the eternal king Jesus. Pray that visions like Daniel’s would fill us with hopeful expectation of the future and fill us with the grace to persevere when trouble comes.

*“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. 11:15)*

**Discussion on the Rapture: Read 2 Thess. 2:3-8 and discuss the following-**

To give clarity here we ask that you read 1 Cor. 15:51-54 and 1 Thess 4:13-18. The Holy Spirit indwells the church and is also the one holding back the anti-christ from appearing on the scene. When the Church is raptured, the man of sin will have free reign. The bible is clear that the church is not appointed unto wrath.

1. Who does the “man of sin” and “son of perdition” refer to?
2. What must happen in order for the anti-Christ to be revealed?
3. What is holding him back according to this passage? (2 Thess. 2:6-7)
4. Who did Pastor Daniel identify as the restrainer? And what will happen when “he” is taken out of the way?

**Pastor Daniel stated:** There’s a lot going on in these verses so let’s unpack them. One thing that’s clear is the Thessalonian believers were excited about the Second Coming and were anticipating it. In this letter, Paul explains that before that event could take place, two things had to happen first. The first thing that must happen is, *‘a great falling away.’* Jesus said that in the last days, *‘Because iniquity will abound, the love of many would grow cold.’*<sup>1</sup> Sadly, I believe we may be living in that day. The second thing Paul said must happen before the Lord’s return was the emergence of someone he calls, *‘the man of sin.’* That’s yet another title for the anti-Christ. This is where things get interesting. Paul said he couldn’t be revealed because something is *‘holding him back.’* He went on to say that once the hindering force is removed, the lawless one will be revealed. So, what is the force that is hindering the emergence of the anti-Christ? People have speculated that it is everything from the Roman government to the Jewish State to Michael the Archangel. **Personally, I believe Paul’s talking about the Holy Spirit working through the Church.** I say that because in verse 7, the withholding force is referred to as a person. That leads to another question. What event would cause a sudden removal of the Holy Spirit from the earth? **The rapture of the church.** Once the church is raptured to heaven, then the antichrist will finally *‘be revealed.’* The word *‘revealed’* comes from the Greek word “apokalupto.”

The word rapture does not occur in the Bible. The term comes from a Latin word meaning “a carrying off, a transport, or a snatching away.” The concept of the “carrying off” or the rapture of the church is clearly taught in Scripture. The rapture of the church is the event in which God “snatches away” all believers from the earth in order to make way for His righteous judgment to be poured out on the earth during the tribulation period. The rapture is described primarily in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54. God will resurrect all believers who have died, give them glorified bodies, and take them from the earth, along with all living believers, who will also be given glorified bodies at that time. “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

<b>The Lord’s Second Coming</b>	
<b>PHASE 1</b> The Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	<b>PHASE 2</b> Christ’s Return to the Earth (Revelation 19:11-16)
Jesus appears in the air	Jesus returns to the earth
Jesus returns in secret, like a thief	Jesus returns openly
Jesus returns <i>for</i> his Church	Jesus returns <i>with</i> his Church
Jesus comes as bridegroom	Jesus comes as King
Jesus comes as deliverer	Jesus comes as warrior and judge
Jesus comes with grace	Jesus comes with wrath and grace
Jesus delivers the Church <i>from</i> wrath	Jesus delivers believers (of the Tribulation) who endured wrath
Living believers receive immortal bodies as they are taken to heaven	Living believers remain mortal on the earth during the Millennium
The world is left unjudged	The world is judged (Mt. 25:31-46)
The world continues in sin	Righteousness is established
Addresses only the saved	Addresses the saved and unsaved
Can happen at any moment	Many signs must first occur
The devil continues his evil reign	The devil is cast into the Abyss