

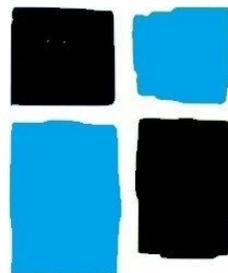
DANIEL: WINTER 2022 Life Group Lesson Devotional for Grey Stone
02.20.22 "Future Seen" from Daniel 7:1-14

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(Sources: Serendipity NIV Bible; Richards Commentary, Shepherd's Commentary; The Word-in Life Study Bible; Holman OT Commentary; Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary).

Read Daniel 7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+7&version=NIRV>



Daniel's book tells us not only about the important prophecies God gave him, but also about the life he lived. I hope you'll join us this week as we continue our study of the Book of Daniel and discover God's future plans for you while obeying God in the present.

Today, we will discover that Believers can live with confidence knowing that God's kingdom is eternal. Join us this week as we see this important truth in Daniel! **Read Daniel 7:1-14** and the comments on **Session 05*** found in your copy of the ETB Personal Study Guide. I have written some devotional thoughts and questions on today's passages below.

Summary 01: Read Daniel 7:1-14

Daniel received a vision from God (which probably occurred many years before the events in chapter 5 and 6). God gave this vision to the apprehensive Jews in captivity under King Belshazzar that He would protect and sustain them. Each part of the vision has significance:

- V.2: The Sea in Scripture stands for the people and nations of the earth. The number four represents the four directions.
- V.3: Beasts symbolize four kingdoms that will be manifested in power and size: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. (Interestingly, some of these kingdoms did not exist when the vision was presented to Daniel.)
- V.4: The Lion: symbolizing Babylon (compare to the descriptions of Nebuchadnezzar in Dan.4); the wings torn speak of his insanity and loss of power; the standing up represents his humanitarian rule and the lifting up denotes God raising the king to a place of honor.
- V.5: The Bear: Medo-Persia is the next world empire and the three ribs in its mouth are the empire's conquests: Babylon (539 BC), Lydia (546BC) and Egypt(525 BC).
- V.6: The Leopard with wings. Greece will then dominate the world with speed and a thirst for blood. Alexander the Great fulfilled this conquest with his empire. After Alexander's death it was divided among his 4 generals: Antipater (Greece & Macedonia); Lysimachus (Thrace and Asia Minor); Seleucus (Syria, Babylon, Middle East & Asia); and Ptolemy (Egypt & Palestine).
- V.7-8: Unidentified Beast with 10 Horns: No name is given because its terrifying appearance did not look like a beast Daniel had seen. This represented the Roman Empire along with kingdoms or kings depicted by the ten horns. The "antichrist" also makes an appearance as a little horn, representing Satan's temporary kingdom taking hold on earth.
- V.9-12: The Ancient of Days, God Himself takes a seat on His throne and exercises prerogative as the chief justice of the universe. White hair is His ageless eternal nature, the throne on wheels (See Ez.1:15-21) engulfed in flames signify His wrath, along with innumerable angels (See also Rev.5:11) surrounding Him.
- V.13-14: The kingdom of God: The Messiah, surrounded by clouds makes His grand entrance and is presented (an ancient custom in royal courts) to the Ancient of Days and is given an eternal kingdom.

Note: A study of History confirms that this vision was followed specifically as each kingdom rose and fell just as God showed Daniel. One day, the remainder of the vision will come to pass and history will be fulfilled as God intends it.

Question: How does this awesome prophecy depict that God is in control of history?

Conclusions: Earthly kingdoms will rise and fall, but someday the kingdom of God will be put in place. When this happens, all wicked worldly rulers will be put to an end. The Messiah will reign over His kingdom. The Book of Daniel and Revelation brought encouragement and strength to the Jews in captivity and the early church, just as they bring encouragement to suffering believers today.

Quotable: "It is a dangerous thing to study prophecy just to satisfy our curiosity. If divine truth doesn't touch our own hearts and affect our conduct, then our Bible study is only an intellectual exercise to inflate our own ego." Warren Weirsbe

Prayer: God: You are the Lord of History and the Future, Forever. Amen