

Hearing God's word in Daniel chapters 7-12...

While waiting to begin:

- Discuss: As you think about the future, are you optimistic or pessimistic? And *why*?

Introduction

Last week: structure... main message... chapters 1-6

- Daniel 4:17, "... the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men."

Getting into chapters 7 – 12: *let's read chapter 7...*

Q: What does the future hold? Should we be optimistic or pessimistic?

Daniel chapters 7-12: how do these chapters "work"?

Shown thing *not normally visible*: spiritual realities

Shown things that had *not yet happened*: Babylon... Medo-Persia... Greece... Rome...

Visions...

The structure of chapters 7-12

= VISIONS... and ANGELIC EXPLANATIONS... with DANIEL'S PRAYER in the middle

7:1-14 = vision: 4 beasts... the Ancient of Days... the Son of Man

7:15-28 = explanation: 4 evil empires – Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome...

8:1-14 = vision: the ram... the goat... & the goat's horns

8:15-27 = explanation: focus on Medo-Persia... and Greece... and one evil king

9:1-19 = *Daniel's confession & plea for mercy – based on the Lord's covenant faithfulness*

9:20-27 = explanation: look beyond the exile – there is hope... and suffering

10:1-12 = vision: of Christ in His glory

10:13-11:1 = explanation: unseen conflict in the heavenly places

11:2-12:13 = explanation: unstable empires... an especially contemptible king... stay faithful

Key themes of Daniel chapters 7-12

i. God's people will suffer

- The four beasts emerging from the sea in Daniel 7...
= prototypes of Revelation 13's beast from the sea with ten horns and seven heads
i.e. there will always be wicked human government that sets itself against the Lord.
- See Daniel 11:31-33 – fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes...
but with other fulfilments still to come

Matthew 24:15, "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

ii. God's people are safe

- Before the final vision of chapters 10-12 who do we see? Daniel 10:5-7

iii. God's people must serve – not Babylon, but the living God

- 11:32, "... but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."
- 12:1, "... everyone whose name shall be found written in the book."
- 12:3, "And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above;
and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."
- 12:13, "But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

➔ Relationship with the Lord

➔ Resistance

➔ Witness