



The Beasts From The Sea Daniel 7

Summary

In Daniel 7, God gives Daniel a vision of four beasts representing successive earthly kingdoms. These beasts reveal the destructive and oppressive nature of human power when it operates apart from God. But the vision doesn't end with the beasts. Daniel sees the Ancient of Days seated in judgment and the Son of Man receiving an everlasting kingdom. The message is clear: earthly powers rise and fall, but God's kingdom will never end. Until that day comes, we have the privilege of following Jesus, living according to His Kingdom's values, and trusting that our lives matter to God.

Part 1: The Beasts and the Nature of Human Power

Read Daniel 7:1-8.

1. Daniel sees four terrifying beasts emerging from the sea, representing Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Why do you think God chose the image of beasts to represent these powerful kingdoms? What does this imagery teach us about the dangers of power without God?
2. In verses 4–7, each beast has distinctive characteristics: the lion's strength, the bear's appetite, the leopard's speed, and the fourth beast's terrifying power. Where do we see similar characteristics in the way individuals, institutions, or nations exercise power today?
3. Chapter 7 will ultimately reveal that earthly dominion will not last forever. Why do you think people are so easily impressed by powerful leaders, successful nations, wealth, or status? How might remembering their temporary nature change our priorities?

4. In the sermon, we heard that apart from our relationship with God, we can descend to the level of the beasts. Where do you see the struggle between our sinful instincts and our God-given call in your own life? What are some things that might help you respond in a Christlike way rather than simply looking out for yourself?

Part 2: The Ancient of Days and God's Sovereignty

Read Daniel 7:9-12

5. After the frightening vision of the beasts, Daniel sees the Ancient of Days seated on His throne, with the heavenly court assembled for judgment. How does this scene change the way you view the evil, injustice, and uncertainty we see in the world?

6. In the teaching, PBC emphasized that God has given humanity genuine freedom, yet He remains ultimately sovereign over history. How do you reconcile human responsibility with God's ultimate control? What difference does that conviction make when you cannot understand why God allows something to happen?

7. Daniel 7 reminds us that human history has a direction and an ending: God will ultimately judge evil and establish His kingdom. When you look at the troubles of our world, what makes it difficult to hold on to that hope? What biblical truths help you persevere?

Part 3: The Son of Man and His Everlasting Kingdom

Read Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 27

8. Daniel sees "one like a son of man" receiving an everlasting kingdom, and Jesus later applies this title to Himself. Why is it significant that Jesus identifies Himself with this figure? How does His authority as King shape your understanding of who He is?

9. In Mark 14:61–62, Jesus refers to Daniel's vision while standing before the religious authorities who will condemn Him. What do Jesus' claims about Himself demand of us? What is the difference between admiring Jesus as a good teacher and submitting to Him as Lord?

10. The teaching describes our present lives as the middle act of God's great story: evil and suffering remain, but Jesus invites us to experience the life of His kingdom now. What are some practical ways we can experience and demonstrate the values of God's coming kingdom in our homes, workplaces, church, and community?

11. Daniel 7:18 promises that the saints of the Most High will receive and possess the kingdom forever. The sermon concludes that God's plan for history includes us, even when we feel insignificant in the shadow of powerful institutions and world events. How does knowing that you belong to Christ's everlasting kingdom affect the way you view your significance, your struggles, and the way you spend your life?

For Further Reflection

This week, identify one area of your life where you need to trust God's sovereignty more deeply or submit more fully to Jesus' rule. Share that commitment with someone in your group, and pray for one another to live as faithful citizens of Christ's everlasting kingdom.

Prayer Requests: