

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Daniel 7:1-28

Lesson 9

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What difference has your study of Daniel 6:1-28 had on you this week in the area of:
 - a. prayer
 - b. faith

2. Many people today are wondering about the future and are worried about what it holds. Through our study this week of Daniel 7, we will look at the future through Daniel's visions. Our study of the prophetic chapters of Daniel will strengthen our faith, elevate our hope and help us to be more effective in our witness. With this in mind read Daniel 7 and record a phrase or verse that especially stands out to you.

3. As you read Chapter Seven of Daniel you may sense a greater need for explanation and understanding. Let this prompt you to pray and commit your needs and desires concerning your study to the Lord. Write your prayer here.

*Teach me, O LORD . . .
Give me understanding . . .
Psalm 119:33a,34a*

SECOND DAY: Read Daniel 7:1-8

1. A close observation of Daniel 7:1 reveals that this chapter is not presented in chronological order. Historically Daniel 7 fits between chapters 4 and 5. Discover a few interesting background facts from verse 1 by answering the following questions:
 - a. When?
 - b. Who?
 - c. Where?
 - d. What?
2. All of Chapter Seven deals with Daniel's *dream and visions*. You may find it helpful to read this chapter in a modern translation or version. Notice what Daniel saw by reading Daniel 7:2 NLT: *In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction.* Many Bible expositors agree that *the sea* probably refers to *the nations*. According to Daniel 7:3 what *came up from the sea*?
3. Later in our study of Daniel 7 we will take a closer look at these *four great beasts* and what they represent. For a brief introduction read the following verses and identify what each beast was *like* and record one statement about it:
 - a. verse 4
 - b. verse 5
 - c. verse 6
 - d. verse 7
 - (1.) The *fourth beast* was different. It had *ten horns*. *Horns* in scripture often represent *power and authority*. Bible scholars identify the *little horn* in Daniel 7:8 as the Antichrist, called *the beast* in Revelation. How does verse 8b describe the *little horn*?
4. God gave Daniel a preview of the future from the Babylonian kingdom to the eternal kingdom. Many of these prophecies are explicit and have been fulfilled while others are yet to be fulfilled. God chose to reveal specific details of the future to His prophet Daniel. What assurance and instruction do we receive from II Peter 1:19-21 concerning prophecy?
 - a. It has been said: *Only God knows the future. He lives outside our time domain and can see the future as well as the past. He sees all of human history.* How does this affect you today?

THIRD DAY: Read Daniel 7:9-14

1. In Daniel 7:9 Daniel's night visions dramatically changed. *I watched till thrones were put in place and the Ancient of Days was seated.* verse 9a NKJV From the following verses record what Daniel saw:
 - a. verse 9b
 - b. verse 10
 - c. Choose a description or phrase that is especially meaningful to you and share why.

Note: Pastor Chuck says, *The Ancient of Days is a title given to Jesus and to God the Father.* He believes that this is not the Great White Throne judgment but Jesus judging the people who have survived the Great Tribulation. (See Matthew 25:31,32.)

2. Focus on the future through the lens of Daniel 7:11-14. These verses give us amazing insights into future events. Write what the following verses reveal about:
 - a. *the beast* (verse 11)
 - b. *the rest of the beasts* (verse 12)
 - c. *the Son of Man* (verses 13,14a)
 - d. *His kingdom* (verse 14b)
3. Christ's everlasting kingdom is our future hope. How does this encourage you to live with eternity in view?
 - a. How will the instruction and the promise of Colossians 3:1-4 help us do this?

Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27b

FOURTH DAY: Read Daniel 7:15-18

1. It is impossible for us to grasp the magnitude of what Daniel saw and heard, but from Daniel 7:15 we sense its effect on him. What was his reaction to these supernatural visions? verse 15
 - a. Daniel was *grieved and troubled* enough to ask for the *interpretation* or meaning of what he had seen. Notice this from Daniel 7:15a,16 TLB: *I was confused and disturbed by all I had seen . . . so I approached one of those standing beside the throne and asked him the meaning of all these things, and he explained them to me.* Write the explanation he was given from the following verses:
 - (1.) verse 17
 - (2.) verse 18

2. The divine interpretation in Daniel 7:17,18 causes Bible scholars to relate Daniel’s vision to Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2. Both describe the rise of four world empires that are succeeded by the kingdom of God. Daniel 2 gives man’s perspective of these four great empires, whereas Daniel 7 gives God’s perspective of them. Complete the following chart by filling in the descriptions of the kingdoms from Daniel’s vision:

NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM (Daniel 2)	DANIEL’S VISION (Daniel 7)
Head - Fine Gold Babylon	verse 4
Chest and Arms - Silver Medo-Persia	verse 5
Belly and Thighs - Bronze Greece	verse 6
Legs - Iron Rome Feet - Iron and Clay Future 10 Nation Confederacy	verses 7,8

3. How does looking back over history and seeing the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecies inspire you and enable you to be a more effective witness?

FIFTH DAY: Read Daniel 7:19-28

1. Daniel was particularly interested in the *fourth beast*. We learn a great deal about this *beast* from Daniel 7:19-28. Through the chart in our lesson we discovered that the *fourth beast* was identified with the Roman Empire. Record a few additional details about this *beast/horn* from verses 20,21.
 - a. Observe verse 22 NIV: *Until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.* How does the anticipation of the future fulfillment of this prophecy minister to you?

Note: Pastor Chuck says: *The **saints** in these verses are the Jews who have turned their hearts to God in the troubled times for Israel. The fact that he (Antichrist) makes war on the saints and prevails against them means that they are the Jewish saints, not the Church. I do not believe that the Church will see the Antichrist empowered upon the earth.*

2. In Daniel 7:23-26 the interpreter continued to explain the meaning of Daniel's vision. Complete the following phrases from verse 25 that reveal more about the *fourth beast* and his kingdom:

And he shall _____ against the _____,
and shall _____ the _____ of the most High, and _____ to
_____ and _____: and they _____ into
his hand until a _____ and _____ and the dividing of _____ (3 ½ years).

3. Consider the conclusion of Daniel's vision as you read Daniel 7:26,27 NLT: *But then the court will pass judgment, and all his power will be taken away and completely destroyed. Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. They will rule forever, and all rulers will serve and obey them.* (See also Daniel 7:10b,22.) Share your response.
4. In Daniel 7:28 Daniel expressed his thoughts and feelings at *the end of the matter*. What was his reaction?

*Truly. . . God is the God of gods,
the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries. . .*
Daniel 2:47b NLT

SIXTH DAY: Review Daniel 7:1-28

1. With this week's study of Daniel 7:1-28 in mind record one thought, insight or observation about:
 - a. *Daniel's dream and visions*
 - b. *the world kingdoms*
 - c. *the little horn/beast (Antichrist)*
 - d. *the saints*
2. How has the lesson this week helped prepare you for Jesus' return and reign?
3. In what specific way has your study of this prophetic chapter of Daniel:
 - a. strengthened your faith
 - b. elevated your hope
 - c. helped you to be more effective in your witness

*The kingdoms of this world
are become the kingdoms of our Lord,
and of His Christ;
and He shall reign for ever and ever.
Revelation 11:15b*