

Daniel – An Old Testament Major Prophet, 7:1 – 9:27

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Dr. Luther: ...the prophecies of Daniel...are not written simply that men may know history and the tribulations that are to come, ...but in order that the righteous shall be encouraged and made joyful, and strengthened in faith and hope and patience. For here the righteous see and hear that their misery shall have an end, that they are to be freed from sins, death, the devil, and all evil (1394).

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts (7:1-8): A summary by Dr. Luther: "In the seventh chapter begin the visions and prophecies of the future kingdoms, especially of the kingdom of Christ, for whose sake all these visions came to pass. ...the four kingdoms, which he pointed out above in chapter 2[:31-43] in the great image, he now sees again in another form, namely in the four beasts [listed below, which point to various coming kingdoms]" (AE 35:299) (1409).

1. ¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon [553 BC], Daniel saw a dream and visions.... Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ² "...the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³ And four great beasts came up out of the sea...
 - a. ⁴ The first was like a **lion** and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.
 - b. ⁵ ...another beast, a second one, like a **bear**. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'
 - c. ⁶ ...another, like a **leopard**, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.
 - d. ⁷ ...a **fourth beast**, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong [but could not be compared to any animal, as beasts 1-3]. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. ...and it had ten horns. ⁸ I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

The interpretation is coming in verses 15-28. "Though Daniel does not yet understand his vision, he knows that it is a revelation from God and so records it for us to read as well. We find much that is hard to understand in such visions. Thank God that He "has spoken to us by His Son" (Heb. 1:2). In Christ, we have God's fullest and clearest revelation" (1409).

The Ancient of Days Reigns (7:9-12): A summary: "The Ancient of Days presides over a court of judgment and condemns the fourth beast to be burned. This judgment scene...is a prelude to the final judgment, when all people will appear before the throne of God (Mt 25:32). For those who are in Christ Jesus, the verdict will be "not guilty" (Rm 8:1; 1Jn 2:1-2) (1410).

2. ⁹ "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days [God the Father] took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands [one million] served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand [one

hundred million] stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹ I looked then because of the sound of the great words [of boasting] that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire [pointing to God's very thorough victory over all evil]. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts [great kingdoms], their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time [until the LORD chose to end their reign]."

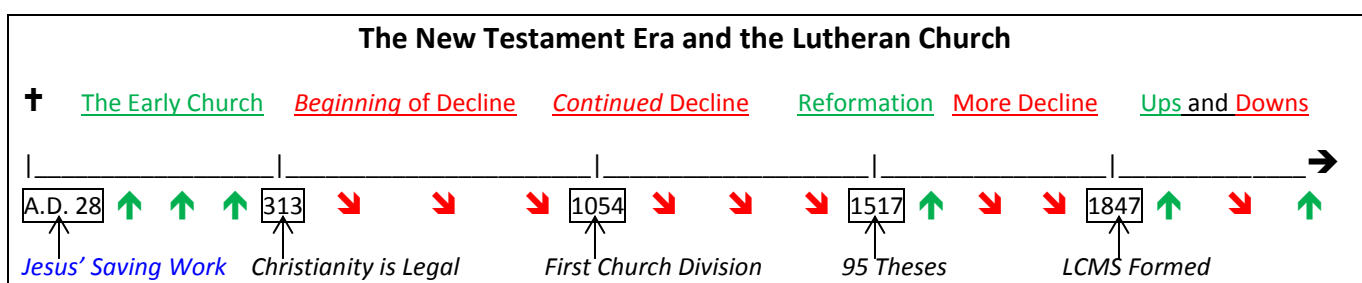
- a. Based on verses 9-10, is God an awesome God? Y N
- b. Sometimes in this life *evil can seem to reign* and *God can seem to be absent*, but let us have no doubt that God is the ultimate winner. As sinners *we are losers*; however, in Christ *we are winners*, we share in His victory over sin, death, and the devil!

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion (7:13-14):

3. ¹³ "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."
 - a. When did the above event happen [keep in mind that it was apparently *after* Jesus died but *before* Jesus ascended that God highly exalted Him (Phil. 2:8-10) and gave Him all authority (Matt. 28:18); also consider Jesus' words to the criminal (Luke 23:43) and Jesus' ascension (Acts 1:9)]? _____
 - b. Even though the great beast was thoroughly destroyed, *Jesus kingdom will never be destroyed!* Let us rejoice in our *membership* through our *relationship* with Jesus!

Daniel's Vision Interpreted (7:15-28): A summary: "Daniel's visions are interpreted to mean that the Ancient of Days will destroy all earthly kingdoms, including that of the little horn, and that the saints of the Most High will possess an everlasting kingdom. Yet Daniel is alarmed and perplexed over what he sees and hears; this may be comforting to us, since we do not fully comprehend God's ways and purposes either. Though we may understand the basics of what God is teaching us, still an element of mystery surrounds His promises and their future fulfillment. Powerful earthly kingdoms may sometimes persecute God's people, but we know that God has given us the Kingdom in His dear Son" (Lk 12:32) (1412).

4. A general interpretation: ¹⁵ "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those who stood there [possibly Gabriel, 8:16] and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷ These four great beasts are four kings [or kingdoms – Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome] who shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High [those who are righteous through Jesus] shall... possess the kingdom forever..."
5. The fourth beast: The Roman Empire (United, 27 BC-394 AD; West, 395-476, East, 395-1453)



- a. Some general thoughts on this difficult section of Daniel:
 - i. The Roman Empire did influence much of the known world for a long time.
 - ii. During most of those years the truth of God’s Word was not rightly known and those who really knew *God’s truth* and *Christ as Savior* were persecuted.
 - iii. With the birth of Martin Luther in 1483, as well as other reformers before and after him, God’s truth was made known and many were forever blessed. But we still await God’s *final* rescue and *full* entrance into His eternal kingdom!
- b. A reminder of the vision: ¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, ...its teeth of iron and claws of bronze... ²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things... ²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.”
- c. The interpretation: ²³ “Thus he said:
 - i. ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth... and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.’
 - ii. ²⁴ ‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings [*or a complete number of kings, since 10 is God’s number for completeness*] shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall... put down three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out [*persecute*] the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.’
 - 1. “change the times and the law” – “**Show antagonism to the Most High by changing the religious calendar and law**” (1412). Even today as we refer to Saturday and Sunday as the weekend, we, *in doing so*, have eliminated God’s way of thinking: Saturday – *the week end* – should cause us to recall the OT day of rest which pointed to the coming of the Christ; Sunday – *the week beginning* – should move us to rest in and worship our Lord Jesus Christ, who has lived and died to save us.
 - 2. “a time, times, and half a time” – These passages have that same phrase: Dan. 12:7; Rev. 12:14. It’s not an easy phrase to understand, *but it does indicate that the persecution of the saints will end.*
 - iii. ²⁶ ‘But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.’ In Christ we win!
 - iv. ²⁸ “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.” So even when we are greatly persecuted by the forces of evil let us never give up, but always rejoice that God is in control and know that we have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:56-57)!

A summary of chapter 8 by Dr. Luther: “Daniel experiences a special vision. Unlike the former, this one pertains not to the whole world but to his own people, the Jews [Judeans]; it shows how they were to fare prior to the Roman empire and before the coming of Christ, namely, under the third empire, that of Alexander the Great. Once again the purpose is to console the Jews, that they may not despair amid the wretchedness that is to engulf them, as if Christ would leave them again and not come” (AE 35:300) (1413).

Daniel’s Vision of the Ram and the Goat (8:1-14): A Summary: “In the vision of a ram and a male goat, God assures His people that His sanctuary will be restored. When trouble comes into our lives, no matter what its source, we may also ask, “How long?” Whether our time of suffering is long or short, we know that God hears our prayers and will help us according to His timetable” (1413).

6. ¹ In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar [551 BC] a vision [rather than a dream] appeared to me, Daniel... ² ...I was in Susa the [future] capital [of the Persian Empire], which is in the province of Elam. ...and I was at the Ulai canal [a waterway near Susa]. ³ I raised my eyes and saw... a **ram** standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns [representing the kings of Media and Persia], and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last [see the PBC (People’s Bible Commentary), 151]. ⁴ I saw the ram charging ←westward and ↑northward and ↓southward [PBC, 152]. No beast [king or kingdom] could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.
7. ⁵ As I was considering, behold, a **male goat** [representing the Greek empire of Alexander the Great] came from the west across the face of the whole earth [from a great distance], without touching the ground [thus, very quickly]. And the goat had a conspicuous [obvious] horn between his eyes. ⁶ He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. ⁷ I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns [the ram was strong, but the goat was stronger]. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power [PBC, 153].
8. ⁸ Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken [PBC, 153], and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven [PBC, 151]. ⁹ Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land [the Promised Land to the west] [PBC, 154]. ¹⁰ It [the little horn] grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host [God’s holy angels] and some of the stars [God’s holy people] it threw down to the ground and trampled on them [PBC, 155]. ¹¹ It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host [as God Himself]. And the regular burnt offering [the morning and evening sacrifices] was taken away from him [God] [PBC, 155], and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. ¹² And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper [PBC, 156].
9. ¹³ Then I heard a holy one [an angel] speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?” [when suffering, we tend to ask: How Long?] ¹⁴ And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings [possibly 1,150 days, since two sacrifices were offered each day]. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state [so the persecution will come to an end].”

The Interpretation of the Vision (8:15-27): A summary: “The angel Gabriel explains Daniel’s vision. The wars between Persia and Greece will lead finally to the emergence of Antiochus IV, who will defy God and His people. But Daniel is assured that God has appointed this evil ruler’s end. Today, we also face a wicked foe, Satan, who prowls around like a roaring lion seeking to devour us (1Pt 5:8). Yet his end is also guaranteed because Christ died to “destroy the one who has the power of death” (Heb. 2:14). Take comfort in Christ’s victory” (1414).

10. ¹⁵ When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man [*the angel Gabriel*]. ¹⁶ And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.” ¹⁷ So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, “Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end [*thus the end of the coming great difficulties*].” ... ¹⁹ ...the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.”
11. ²⁰ “As for the **ram** that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. ²¹ And the **goat** is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king [*thus Alexander the Great*]. ²² As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power [*so when Alexander the Great died, the kingdom was divided among his four generals*]. ²³ And at the latter end of their kingdom [*that of the four generals*], when the transgressors have reached their limit [*a limit set by God*], a king of bold face, one who understands riddles [*who is clever*], shall arise.”
12. ²⁴ “His power [*that of Antiochus IV*] shall be great--but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints [*a terrible time for God’s people*]. ²⁵ By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand [**PBC, 162**], and in his own mind he shall become great [*“Antiochus IV used the temple for worship of Zeus (11:31)” (1414)*]. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes [*against God*], and he shall be broken--but by no human hand.” “Antiochus IV died in late 164 BC while campaigning in Persia; he reportedly lost his mind. So God ended his reign of terror (11:45)” (1414).
13. ²⁶ “The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now [*from Daniel’s time, about 300 years into the future*].” ²⁷ And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king’s business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.
 - a. ^{ESV} **Isaiah 46:9-10** ...I am God... declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done...
 - b. We, as people, do not know the future; but, through Jesus, we know the true God who knows the future and has all things in His hands.
 - i. The Father was in control; now the Son; then the Father will again resume control.
 - ii. ^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 15:24** Then comes the end, when [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For “God [the Father] has put all things in subjection under his feet [Matt. 28:18].” ... ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him [*God the Father*] who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. [**PBC, 164**]

Dr. Luther: “The ninth chapter opens with a splendid prayer in which Daniel prays for his people who are held captive in Babylon, and for the city of Jerusalem and the temple. He prays that the Jews [Judeans] might return to Jerusalem and there resume their worship of God. The prayer is answered, and to Daniel is revealed the number of years until Christ should come and begin his eternal kingdom. Now this is a remarkable and great revelation of Christ which sets the time so surely and accurately” (AE 35:303)” (1414).

Chapter 9: Dr. Phillip Giessler taught this chapter on 8/23/2015 at Bethlehem.

6. ¹ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans-- ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. ³ Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. ⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. ⁷ To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. ⁸ To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. ⁹ To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him ¹⁰ and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. ¹² He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. ¹³ As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. ¹⁴ Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. ¹⁵ And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly. ¹⁶ “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. ¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. ¹⁸ O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹ O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

7. ²⁰ While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God, ²¹ while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice [3:00 PM, when Jesus would die on the cross]. ²² He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. ²³ At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.”

The Predicted Timeline concerning Messiah and His Church (9:24-27):

8. ²⁴ “Seventy weeks [490 years] are decreed about your people and your holy city, ♦to finish the transgression, ♦to put an end to sin, and ♦to atone for iniquity, ♦to bring in everlasting righteousness, ♦to seal both vision and prophet, and ♦to anoint a most holy place.
- a. ²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem [not the temple] to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks [] it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.
 - b. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end [the end of Jerusalem in A.D. 70] shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.
 - c. ²⁷ And he [the Messiah, even though some say it is the anti-Christ] shall make a strong covenant with many for one week [7 years], and for half of the week [3 ½ years] he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”
 - d. Notes:
 - i. World Powers: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome (the time when the Messiah will come).
 - ii. Lion (Babylon); Bear (Media-Persia); Leopard (Greece, divided into four parts when Alexander the Great died); Rome
 - iii. Meanings of 25-27: See Dr. G’s handout.
 - iv. Dr. G: The RCC added the Apocrypha after Luther died to support their doctrines like praying to the dead; prior to Luther’s death, the RCC had the same Bible that we do.
 - v. First 3 ½ years were Jesus’ ministry.
 - vi. Second 3 ½ years were Stephen’s stoning and Paul’s conversion.