

THE FOUR BEASTS AND THE FINAL KING (Part 1)

Daniel 7:1-12

AiM 8/14/2026

Four Scenes in the Prophetic Panorama of World History and Things to Come:

I. The Imperial Rise of the Four Beasts (7:1-7)

II. The Boastful Arrival of the Little Horn (7:8)

III. The Fiery Judgment of The Ancient of Days (7:9-10)

IV. The Everlasting Kingdom of the Son of Man (7:13-14)

V. The Sobering Interpretation of the Vision (7:15-28)

Please turn your Bibles and your attention to Daniel chapter 7.

It is a joy to continue our study of the incredible Book of Daniel tonight!

Tonight we resume our study here in Daniel chapter 7—which really is a “hinge” chapter – a transition in the book.

The 1st half of Daniel (chapters 1-6) really is the “narrative” portion of the book.

But now we come to the 2nd half, which really is “prophetic” or even “apocalyptic” in its overall genre.

By the way, *this is the final chapter of the Aramaic section of the book.*

The Aramaic section began in chapter 2 and ends here in chapter 7.

And if you remember, I shared with you all that the Aramaic section has a very clear “chiastic structure”.

Chiastic Structure of the Aramaic Structure (Daniel 2-7):

Dan. 2 – Vision of the four world empires

Dan. 3 – Deliverance of Daniel’s friends from the fiery furnace

Dan. 4 – Judgment of Nebuchadnezzar resulting in repentance

Dan. 5 – Judgment of Belshazzar resulting in death

Dan. 6 – Deliverance of Daniel from the lions’ den

Dan. 7 – Vision of the four world empires

What is most helpful there is to pay close attention to the parallels between Dan. 2 and Dan. 7.

In Dan. 2, God broke through and gives Nebuchadnezzar a panorama of the future.

And now God breaks through again to advance the clarity of the same prophetic panorama here in Daniel's vision.

But as we get back in, just a reminder of the overarching theme of this incredible book:

The absolute sovereignty and trustworthiness of the true and living God!

We're going to see that on display in an incredible way tonight.

This is an incredible passage that many theologians have called "the backbone" of biblical eschatology.

Tonight you'll begin to see why.

Here in this vision, God shows Daniel the great panorama of how world history would unfold UNTIL one final King would come to reign forever.

We're going to see how God predicted the rise and fall of four earthly gentile kingdoms—depicted here as four beasts.

And then how God showed Daniel that in the end, the Final King would come and WIN!

HOPE ~ for those in Christ!

This is like fast-forwarding the movie to the end.

God will WIN!

This fallen world which groans for deliverance—every tragedy and temptation and tear forever wiped away!

This is incredible HOPE!

And consider what this would've meant for Daniel and the Jews in exile.

This is God's reminder that He would not abandon His promises to His people!

So it should bring great hope to our hearts tonight—for those in Christ.

But it also should bring great CONVICTION—a sobering occasion for self-examination.

Because *this is REAL. It is not a game.*

All things are RUSHING toward this end—the future and FINAL Kingdom—the return of the final King!

What will that mean for you? Will you be there? Are you a citizen of this Kingdom?

Beloved young adults, this is what is truly **real**. *Are you living in light of this?*

We're going to walk through this incredible passage by considering Four Scenes in the Prophetic Panorama of World History and Things to Come:

- I. The Imperial Rise of the Four Beasts (7:1-7)*
- II. The Boastful Arrival of the Little Horn (7:8)*
- III. The Fiery Judgment of The Ancient of Days (7:9-10)*
- IV. The Everlasting Kingdom of the Son of Man (7:13-14)*
- V. The Sobering Interpretation of the Vision (7:15-28)*

Let's begin with the **1st scene: *The Imperial Rise of the Four Beasts (7:1-7).***

Look at verse 1:

- | |
|--|
| <p>1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his head <i>as he lay</i> on his bed; then he wrote the dream down <i>and</i> said the <i>following</i> summary of the matter.</p> |
|--|

So, just notice—in terms of timeline—that this is actually a *flashback*.

Chapters 1-6 were very much in *chronological order*, as the story advanced.

And we left off last time in Dan. 6, “*Daniel in the Lions’ Den*” which happened during the reign of King Darius of Medo-Persia, years after Babylon had fallen.

Daniel was probably closer to 80 years old at that time, closer to the end of his life.

But this here in chapter 7 is now a flashback in the story, back to the time of Babylon.

Specifically it is “*the first year of King Belshazzar*” ...so notice, this is before Medo-Persia had conquered Babylon.

That is important to get (*not only to know the context and flow of the book*), but also so that you can marvel at the prophetic accuracy of this passage!

And connecting this back to chapter 2—Nebuchadnezzar’s vision—this about 50 years after that vision.¹

In fact, Neb. has been dead for about 10 years at this point.²

And this is about 14 years before that fatal night of the handwriting on the wall, when Belshazzar died and the Medo-Persians conquered Babylon.³

Verse 1 goes on to set the stage here—“*Daniel saw a dream and visions...*”.

As I mentioned this is a transition now to the prophetic/apocalyptic section of Daniel.

The remainder of the book of Daniel will essentially deal with the visions God gave him regarding the unfolding of world history.

¹ Whitcomb, 91.

² Whitcomb, 91.

³ Dykstra notes, p. 134.

This is the first of those visions. *There are three of these visions, just to orient you to the remainder of the book:*

- *one in ch. 7;*
- *a second one in ch. 8;*
- *and a final one that runs from ch. 10 all the way to ch. 12).*

But here Daniel tells us in verse 1 that he “wrote down” and preserved for us a “summary” of this vision.

Incredible preservation of God’s inspired revelation!

Let’s read vv. 2-7.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 | Daniel answered and said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. [likely the Mediterranean Sea”] |
| 3 | “And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. [this turbulent sea represents the earth-- see v. 17 were these beasts “arise from the earth” — it is the world’s fallen system of sin and suffering] |
| 4 | “The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; and a heart of a man was given to it. |
| 5 | “And behold, another beast, a second one in the likeness of a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’ |
| 6 | “After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. |
| 7 | “After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, fearsome and terrifying and extraordinarily strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. |

So, God shows Daniel the rise of these four beasts, coming up out of the churning sea. The chaos of this world.

This is an absolutely terrifying vision—Daniel will go on to tell us in v. 15 and v. 28 that he was indeed **greatly distressed** by it.

I mean this is the stuff that Hollywood constantly tries to produce.

This is “sci-fi” chapter. Some have called the “Jurassic park” chapter.

What he sees are four mutant-like beasts rising out of the sea.

I want you to notice Daniel's description of these beasts—it's not that they ARE animals, but he describes to as being in the LIKENESS of animals.

These are mutant monsters.

The best Daniel can do to try to help us have a mental image is to compare them to animals that they resemble.

- A first beast "*like*" a Lion with eagles wings.
- A beast "*in the likeness of*" a giant deformed bear with one side of its body lifted higher than the other side.
- A third beast "*like*" a leopard with four heads and four wings.
- And then a fourth beast that Daniel couldn't compare to any animal...
 - o *A monster beast, terrifying with iron teeth and ten horns.*

So this vision would be terrifying just by that fact.

Daniel's senses would be overwhelmed with this horrific nightmare.

But what makes it truly terrifying is what these beasts represent.

What we're going to do next is make connections to how this is a prophetic panorama of world history.

But I want you to know that the connections and conclusions I'm about to set before you are NOT just human guesswork.

NO! God himself provides the interpretation for us!!

To show you this, let's fast-forward for a moment to verses 15-17 where God begins to interpret the dream...then we'll come back and make connections.

Look down at **vv. 15-17.**

- 15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions of my head kept alarming me.
- 16 “I came near to one of those who were standing by [most likely an angel] and began seeking out *from* him the exact meaning of all this. So he said *it* to me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:
- 17 ‘These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are **four kings who will arise from the earth.**

So this is just as clear as chapter 2, when God gave Daniel the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

There God revealed through Daniel that each segment of the statue represented a king and a kingdom, in a successive progression.

As you recall in chapter 2, there were four earthly kingdoms that would be crushed by a stone (Jesus Christ) and give way to His everlasting kingdom!

And we have an unmistakable parallel to that vision now here in ch. 7.

Both chapters give the same panoramic sweep of the unfolding of world history until the final King and the eternal kingdom.

But here in chapter 7, the camera lens now zooms in to give us some details that chapter 2 did not give us.

Let’s walk through this. You’ll want to use your handout for this section.

[HANDOUT]

The Four Beasts (Four Earthly Kingdoms, cf. v. 17)

- 1) *Lion with Eagle Wings = BABYLON (Nebuchadnezzar)(605-539 BC)*
- 2) *Lopsided Bear = MEDO-PERSIA (Cyrus/Darius) (539-331 BC)*
- 3) *Four-Headed Leopard = GREECE (Alexander the Great) (331-146 BC)*
- 4) *Monster Beast = ROME (146 BC–AD 476 [West]/1453 [East])*
 - *Ten Horns = Ten-King Confederation (cf. v. 24) (yet future)*

1) THE 1st BEAST (7:4) ~ *Lion with Eagle Wings* (**Babylon**/Nebuchadnezzar)

Several key characteristics in this description confirm that this is indeed Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar.

- Both the lion and the eagle were symbols of Babylon with the Old Testament prophets comparing Babylon to a lion (cf. Jer 4:6-7; 49:19; 50:17) and an eagle (cf. Jer 4:13; 48:40; 49:22; Ezek 17:3; Hab 1:8).⁴
- Interestingly, archaeology has shown that both the Lion and the Eagle were symbols of Babylon (i.e., in their architecture).
- But notice verse 4 says *'it's wings were plucked'* ~ this is a reference to Nebuchadnezzar's 7 years as a "cow" in the fields in ch. 4.
- But then we see his restoration, verse 4 goes on to say "he was made to stand on two feet" and "given a human mind/heart".
- Parallels the "Head of Gold" from ch. 2 [see back graphic].

But I also want you to now notice how verse 4 showcases the absolute sovereignty of God over this powerful 1st beast.

Because in Daniel's description—*powerful though this beast is*—clearly there is greater power exercising authority OVER this beast.

- It's wings were plucked—*by whom?* The answer is God!
- It was lifted it up from the ground and made to stand –*by whom?* GOD!
- A heart of a man was given to it...*by whom?* GOD!

The sovereign God did all of this for Nebuchadnezzar!

This is what Nebuchadnezzar declared at the end of chapter 4, after his mind was restored,

"The Most High is the powerful Ruler OVER the kingdom of mankind and HE GIVES it to whom He wishes..." (Dan. 4:18).

⁴ Dykstra, course notes for BE 607: Daniel

So shooting through the middle of this incredible vision is *the absolute sovereignty of the true and living God*.

Let's consider the 2nd beast now.

2) THE 2nd BEAST (7:5) ~ *Lopsided Bear* (**Medo-Persia**/Cyrus/Dairus)

- Notice it was a “lopsided” bear—*“raised up on one side”*
 - This is because of the two countries that made up the Medo-Persian empire, Persia was by far the greater and more powerful one.⁵
- Consider how this corresponds to the Statue on Daniel 2 [on the back of Handout].
 - The chest and arms of silver.
- The bear had “three ribs in its mouth” – this likely refers to the three major nations that Medo-Persia had conquered and vanquished (Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon).⁶

But I want us to consider once again **the sovereignty** of God exercised over this lopsided bear:

- Specifically this phrase in v.5 “...**they** said to it, ‘arise, devour much meat’...”
- Someone is commanding the bear to go devour (which refers to Medo-Persia’s vast expansion and conquering of other nations).
- But someone is *commanding* the bear to do this! *Who is this?*
 - *I believe this is God!*
 - *And the fact that it uses a plural pronoun “they” could be a reference to the Trinity!*

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

- So God commands the bear to go devour much meat showing that ultimately, He was sovereign over Medo-Persia's defeat of Babylon.
- *Do you remember the handwriting on the wall in chapter 5 during Belshazzar's feast?*
 - That was the night that Babylon fell to Medo-Persia.
 - But remember, this vision is some 14 years before that night!
- Just marvel at the predictive accuracy of this chapter.
- After conquering Babylon, Medo-Persia lasted just over 200 hundred years.
- Then it fell to a man whose name you will know: *Alexander the Great*.
 - We'll talk a LOT about him when we get to chapter 8.

But this brings us to consider the 3rd beast.

3) THE 3rd BEAST (7:6) ~ *Four-Headed Leopard* (**Greece**/Alexander the Great)

- As we continue to trace history in the succession of these kingdoms, we know that this third one is Greece.
- It corresponds to the *Belly & Thighs of Bronze* on the Statue (see Handout)
- Greece conquered Medo-Persia around 331 BC with incredible military speed at the command of Alexander the Great.
- Alexander the Great's conquest of the world was unprecedented in its military genius and speed.
- We will learn more about this in chapter 8, but if you know your history, Alexander died very young at the age of 33 (cf. Dan 8:8, 21-22).
- He never lived to rule over his empire.

- After his death, Greece was parceled out between—notice this—
FOUR generals who divided the kingdom of Greece into four regions.
- Which correspond to the Four Heads and Four Wings of this Leopard.
- History shows us that in the absence of Alexander’s leadership, a power struggle ensued, which resulted in the division of his empire into 4 regions:⁷
 - Ptolemy – ruled over Egypt, Palestine, Arabia (the south)
 - Seleucus – ruled over Syria, Babylonia (the east)
 - Cassander – ruled over Macedonia and Greece (the west)
 - Lysimachus – ruled over Thrace and Asia Minor (the north)
- Again, put a pin in that because it will be very present in the details of chapter 8.
- Consider the Sovereignty of God of this 4-headed leopard (Greece):
 - Also, here at the end of verse 6, notice this phrase, “...*dominion was given to it...*”
 - Also, marvel at the predictive accuracy of this over 200 years before it happened!

This brings us to consider the fourth beast in verse 7.

4) THE 4th BEAST (7:7) ~ *Monster Beast (Rome)*

7 “After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, fearsome and terrifying and extraordinarily strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

- Daniel’s description of this beast make it clear that it was unlike the other beasts.

⁷ Todd Dykstra, *Course Notes for BE 607: Daniel*, The Expositors Seminary, Spring 2025.

- He couldn't even compare it to a known animal.
- But he also highlights its unique power over and against the previous beasts—he says it was, *"fearsome, terrifying, and extraordinarily strong"*
- As we continue to track the parallels with the Statue of chapter 2, history confirms for us that this is **ROME**.
- And we can notice some important similarities between this 4th beast and the Legs/Feet of Iron and Clay from ch. 2 [see back of handout].
- First of all, notice that both are characterized by **iron**.
- In ch. 2, it was the legs and feet of iron.
- Here the beast is depicted with "large teeth of **iron**".
- But another striking similarity is that this 4th kingdom expects a 10-fold division.
- In ch. 2, it is the 10 toes. Here in ch. 7, notice it has 10 horns.

To help us understand what this means—once again—we are not left to resort to human speculation—let's just hear God's interpretation of it.

Look down at verse 23 where we find this.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 23 | "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the <i>other</i> kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. |
| 24 | 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; [STOP HERE for now] |

- So, the 10 horns represent 10 kings.
- This is exactly what we saw in ch. 2—the 10 toes represented kings.
- And do you remember what we concluded based on the evidence in chapter 2?

- That this 10-king confederacy represents a **future** reality even from OUR standpoint! A “revived Rome” [as you can see on your Handout].
- Here’s why this must be future:
 - First, there is no instance in world history (much less in Roman history) that fits the description of a 10-king confederacy.
 - Secondly, the data in Daniel 2 and 7 both indicate that this 10-king confederacy will be active when Christ returns to establish His kingdom! (*we will see that more next time*).
 - In other words, this is the kingdom that will give way to the final King and the eternal kingdom of God!
 - Dan. 2:44: “*now in the days of those kings (referring back to the toes) the God of heaven will cause a kingdom to rise up which will never be destroyed....*”
 - This is an important timestamp that *hasn’t yet happened!*
 - We anticipate God to set up a physical earthly kingdom...which Daniel 2:44 predicts will happen “in the days of those kings” those 10 toes/10 horns.
 - With that in mind, isn’t it interesting that Rome really did not “fall” to another empire. It really self-dissolved into the world as we know it today!
 - And since Rome there has been no world empire.
 - In many ways, Rome still lies dormant today and I believe that the biblical data points to the fact that Rome will be revived in its imperial power just prior to the return of Christ.
 - So Rome 2.0 will give way to Christ’s earthly kingdom, when He returns to reign for 1,000 years (before the eternal state).

- Another reason why this Revived Rome must be future is what we see next in v. 8., which brings us to our next overall heading.

Scene #2 The Boastful Arrival of the Little Horn (7:8)

Read v. 8:

8	“While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great <i>boasts</i> .”
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Up to this point, I have been pointing out all the connections between chapter 7 and chapter 2...but now we come to something **new**.

This is a new detail that was not in ch. 2. The camera is zooming in.

Here we meet a new figure in the great panorama of history—“the little horn”.

Many of you already know who this is, but I want to show you, this little horn is the figure we know from later revelation as “**The Antichrist**”.

But let’s begin with the details that Daniel gives us here.

Here are some characteristics of this **Little Horn**:

- *“a little [horn] came up among the [the 10 horns]”*
 - He will rise out of this 10-king confederation
 - So he is a powerful ruler!
- *“three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it...”*
 - He will overpower and kill three of the kings in his rise to power.
 - So he is a military leader who can execute his authority through force.
- Turn over to vv. 24 again now as God provides more details in the interpretation:

24	‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will make low three kings.’
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- So he is “*different*” from the other kings. He is far more influential. Far more powerful. Unprecedented.
- BUT, notice, Daniel describes him as a man.
- Back in verse 8, notice, “*this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great boasts*”
- Flip back over to v. 25 and notice the details of what those great boasts were:

25	‘He will speak words against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make changes in seasons and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. [We will get to this next time]
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- He is a blasphemous ruler who sets himself against the Most High.
- He “wears down” the Saints of the Highest One – this is his activity:
 - o he is totally opposed to God’s people and will persecute them and wear them down.
- Law (authority) will be given into his hand for “a time, times, and half a time”
 - o What is this?
 - o A “time” is a year. (more on this next time)
 - o But this is a year, years (so 2), and half a year = 3 ½ years.
- Do you know what this sounds like? Turn over to Revelation 13.
- There we find a description of the figure known as the Antichrist that is strikingly parallel.
- Revelation 13:5 ~ “*And there was given to him a mouth speaking great boasts and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.*”
- How long is 42 months? 3 ½ years. A time, times, and half a time.

- More on that next time. But for now this is good “first coat of paint”.
- But I do just want to highlight once again, the absolute sovereignty of God here – did you notice what both Daniel 7:25 and Rev. 13:5 said?
 - The authority and power of this antichrist *will be given to him!*
 - By whom? By GOD!
- Back to our passage. Daniel 7.
- Here we have this little horn with eyes and a mouth, blaspheming God and persecuting God’s people.
- Things seem rather grim. BUT now we come to the TURNING POINT of the passage.

Look at verse 9:

*“I kept looking Until thrones were set up, **And the Ancient of Days was seated...***

THIS is the TURNING POINT!

Away from the chaos of the churning sea...

Away from the terrifying rise of these beasts.

Away from ear-splitting, blasphemous shrieking of the Little Horn.

The great panorama of history abruptly moves Daniel from the chaos and blasphemy of these earthly kingdoms to a Divine Throne room.

And the key words that Daniel declares are these: And the Ancient of Days was seated!

This brings us to our third scene overall, our last scene for tonight:

Scene #3 The Fiery Judgment of The Ancient of Days (7:9-10)

Who is this Ancient of Days? It is God Himself. The True and Living God.

The True King. The Final King. The Perfect and Righteous Judge.

This phrase “Ancient of Days” is not meant to convey that He is “old”.

The idea conveyed here is one of ETERNALITY.

He is the Ancient of Days in that there is NONE before Him!

He had no beginning and will have no end!

Daniel did NOT see an old, frail man limping to a recliner here...NO!

...he sees the MAJESTIC, ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR AND KING AND
JUDGE TAKE HIS THRONE!

Notice how the description goes on here in vv. 9-10:

- 9 *“I kept looking
Until thrones were set up,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His clothing was like white snow
And the hair of His head like pure wool.
His throne was ablaze with fire,
Its wheels were a burning fire.*
- 10 *“A river of fire was flowing
And coming out from before Him;
Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, [like Rev. 5:11-12]
And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;
The court sat,
And the books were opened.*

What is this?

This is a Courtroom.

This is judgment scene.

All throughout God’s Word, His judgment is depicted as FIRE.

Here that's what we're seeing.

His throne was ablaze with fire. Its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing out from before Him.

The picture is breathtaking and should strike terror in the hearts of God's enemies.

And that is indeed what is going on here.

And just remember now the context.

What this would have meant for Daniel, a Jew in exile.

This would have filled Daniel's heart with HOPE that God will not abandon His people.

That God will vindicate His Name.

Daniel has just seen that four gentile kingdoms will rise as history unfolds, surely his question would've been, "*what about your people, God?*"

Here we find God's answer. The Ancient of Days takes His seat and the books are opened.

What are these books?

They refer to books that contain the evil deeds of those who oppose God.

Specifically, here, these are books that will be consulted in order to judge, condemn, and destroy the Antichrist and his evil empire. (Miller, 205).

And that is the result—notice what happens next—v. 11:

11	"Then I kept looking because of the sound of the great <i>boastful</i> words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was killed, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
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The picture of victory here is staggering.

Miller writes,

*"If it were not so sad, the scene would be humorous. This little horn with a big mouth is spewing out venom toward the Almighty when suddenly the first of God's judgment falls, and the little horn is silenced forever."*⁸

2 Thessalonians reminds us that when Christ returns, he will destroy Antichrist "with the breath of His mouth".

[How I tell the story to the boys].

Think of the HOPE this brings to believers, especially under oppression.

Here is the Sovereign Judge who will not let injustice go unpunished.

He will not let His people be put to shame in the end. He will be vindicated and so will His people.

He will WIN! This is the end of the story.

FIERY JUDGMENT AWAITS ALL GOD'S ENEMIES.

- Hebrews 12:29: God is a consuming fire
- Hebrews 10:31: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"
- Matthew 10:28: *"And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

I think this should cause us to "feel our smallness" tonight.

⁸ Ibid., 206.

These four beasts represent the **most powerful peaks** of world history, yet with a breath from the Ancient of Days, they are nothing.

And they are all in His Hand.

How much more should we, who are not powerful even by earthly standards, bow the knee to the True and Final King!?

Notice v. 12.

12	“As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for an appointed season of time .”
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The “rest of the beasts” refers to the first three: Babylon, Medo-Persie, and Greece.

“Their dominion was *taken away*...” – again, God’s sovereignty over them.

“But an extension of life was given to them for an appointed season of time...”

Put simply, this is describing the reality that as each of these kingdoms were conquered, a part of their culture and identity continued on.

So they were given an “extension of life”. Each kingdom spilling over in some way into the next one.

But even this extension of life is only for **an appointed season of time**.

Once the books are opened, that appointed season of time will be **irreversibly over**.

This 4th kingdom will have no extension of life, but will meet the Final King who will establish His everlasting kingdom.

(This where we will pick up next time).

[Concluding Thoughts]

Everything on this earth—including you—is given life for an *appointed time*.

THIS IS WHERE ALL THINGS ARE RELENTLESSLY RUSHING!

The inevitable judgement of the Ancient of Days.

How are you living?

We are confronted tonight with the inescapable reality of the Ancient of Days.

And this reality does one of two things.

It is either the greatest source of comfort (HOPE) for your soul;

OR it is (or should be) the greatest source of terror for your soul.

We sang of the Ancient of Days earlier in the hymn, “O Worship the King” and we sang these words:

“Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days!”

And I just want to ask, ‘*Is He your shield and defender?*’

When you reach that final day, *will He be your shield and defender?*

OR will you, on that day, finally be exposed and defenseless against the final, fiery judgment of the Ancient of Days?

Do you secretly **dread** His return because you know He is NOT your shield and defender?

He is the sovereign. All things are *from Him, and through Him, and to Him!*

If you have not surrendered to King Jesus then please make no mistake—the words we sang earlier are not yours.

The Ancient of Days is NOT your *Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend*.

Ah...but if you know Him!

If you HAVE bowed the knee to Jesus, the True and Final King—then the Ancient of Days IS your *Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend!*

And you are on journey—that will soon be over—**toward the City of the King!**

- *Live like you belong there...(not this world)!*
- *Like you're headed there. Soberminded. (not wordly).*
- *Live like you want everyone you know the BE there too!*

Let me read the lyrics of the final verse of that precious hymn we sang:

*All hail to the King! In splendor enthroned
Glad praises we bring, Thy wonders make known
Returning victorious great conqueror of sin
King Jesus all glorious our victory will win!*

That's where this is all headed. This is ultimate reality. *Don't live out of touch with reality.*

Next time, we will pick up right here and we will marvel at the promised **return of the King.**

We will behold **the Son of Man**—Jesus Christ—who will come to establish His kingdom, which will never end.

HE WILL WIN.

As we close tonight, I just want to set before you again as a final thought, the theme of the book of Daniel.

The absolute sovereignty and trustworthiness of the true and living God.

The key question is *are you trusting Him!?*

I want us to end tonight it a different way—responding to all of this with a song—a song that will help us express our trust in the Ancient of Days.

[SING]