



# The Book of Daniel: No Compromise

Daniel 7:1-14

Pastor Brad Wood

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Our study for this week finds us in Daniel chapter 7 where we encounter a striking contrast between how humanity views its kingdoms and how God sees them. Whereas King Nebuchadnezzar once saw empires as glorious metals—gold, silver, bronze, and iron—Daniel's vision reveals them as wild, terrifying beasts emerging from the sea.

This parallel imagery offers us a sobering truth: what appears majestic and valuable from our human perspective often reveals itself as brutal and destructive from God's eternal vantage point. The four beasts—the lion with eagle's wings, the lopsided bear, the four-headed leopard, and the terrifying fourth beast—represent successive world empires, each dominating in turn yet ultimately falling.

But the vision doesn't end in despair. Instead, we witness the Ancient of Days seated on His throne in brilliant glory, surrounded by countless thousands ministering to Him followed by that breathtaking moment when One like the Son of Man approaches and receives an everlasting kingdom that will never be destroyed.

This prophetic glimpse reminds us that despite the chaos and conflict we see in our world today, God remains sovereign over history. The nations may rage and plot against Him, but He who sits in the heavens laughs, knowing the end from the beginning. For us, this means we can rest in the certainty that Jesus will return to establish His righteous reign, and that our role is not to fix all the world's problems ourselves, but to align our hearts with God's primary concern: the salvation of lost souls who need His light.

## Key Takeaways:

**Two Perspectives on World Powers:** Nebuchadnezzar saw kingdoms as precious metals (man's perspective), while Daniel saw them as beasts (God's perspective). Human governments appear glorious to us but are often barbaric and destructive from God's viewpoint.

### **The Four Beasts Represent Four Empires:**

- Lion with eagle's wings = Babylon
- Bear with three ribs = Medo-Persian Empire
- Leopard with four wings and four heads = Greek Empire (Alexander the Great)
- Terrifying fourth beast with ten horns = Roman Empire (and its end-times manifestation)

**God is Sovereign Over History:** These prophecies demonstrate that God knows the end from the beginning and is actively working His plan throughout human history.

**Jesus is the Ultimate Victor:** Daniel saw "One like the Son of Man" receiving eternal dominion—a pre-incarnate vision of Christ's ultimate victory.

**Human Government Will Ultimately Fail:** God is demonstrating through history that mankind cannot successfully govern itself apart from Him.

# 5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

## Day 1: Two Perspectives on Human Kingdoms

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*Reading: Daniel 7:1-8; Psalm 2:1-12*

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Devotional: Nebuchadnezzar saw kingdoms as precious metals—gold, silver, bronze—polished and glorious. Daniel saw them as wild beasts—devouring, trampling, destroying. One perspective reflects human pride: the other reveals divine truth. How often do we admire the glittering achievements of this world while overlooking their bestial nature? The empires that appear magnificent to human eyes are revealed in God's sight as temporary, violent, and ultimately futile. Yet even as nations rage against the Lord and His anointed, God sits in the heavens and laughs, knowing the end from the beginning. Today, ask yourself: Am I viewing my circumstances through human eyes or with divine perspective? Let God's eternal viewpoint transform how you see the world around you.

## Day 2: The Ancient of Days on His Throne

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*Reading: Daniel 7:9-12; Revelation 4:1-11*

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Devotional: Daniel's vision shifts from earthly chaos to heavenly order. The Ancient of Days sits enthroned, clothed in brilliant white, surrounded by fire and attended by countless thousands. This is not a distant, disinterested deity but the Judge of all the earth, before whom books are opened and accounts settled. The pompous beast is slain; dominion is stripped away. In our turbulent times, when headlines scream of conflict and crisis, we need this vision. God has not abdicated His throne. He remains sovereign over every nation, every ruler, every circumstance. The court is seated; justice will prevail. What anxieties are you carrying today about world events or personal struggles? Bring them before the Ancient of Days, who holds all authority and executes perfect justice in His perfect timing.

## Day 3: The Son of Man Receives His Kingdom

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*Reading: Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 26:57-68; Revelation 5:1-14*

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Devotional: Daniel sees "One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven." This wasn't merely a future king, but the very title Jesus claimed for Himself before the high priest, declaring He would come "on the clouds of heaven." What the religious leaders called blasphemy was actually prophetic fulfillment. To Jesus is given dominion, glory, and an everlasting kingdom. Every people, nation, and language will serve Him. His dominion will never pass away. The same Jesus who humbled Himself to death on a cross will return in glory to claim what is rightfully His. As you face your day, remember that you serve the coming King whose victory is absolutely certain. Live today in the light of that eternal reality. Where can you demonstrate allegiance to His everlasting kingdom rather than temporary earthly powers?

## Day 4: Human Government and Divine Intervention

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*Reading: Romans 13:1-7; Revelation 13:1-10*

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Devotional: Throughout history, every form of human government has ultimately failed because of the corruption in human hearts. God allows mankind to exhaust every attempt at self-rule to demonstrate our desperate need for His intervention. Yet even godly systems become corrupted by our fallen nature. This isn't cause for despair but for hope—hope that recognizes only God can truly govern the human heart. The beast of Revelation gathers characteristics of all previous empires, representing humanity's final attempt at self-exaltation before Christ returns. Until then, we respect governing authorities as God commands while remembering our ultimate citizenship is in heaven. How does this truth shape your political engagement? Are you placing ultimate hope in human solutions or in divine intervention through Christ?

## Day 5: Living in Light of Prophecy

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*Reading: 2 Peter 3:3-14; Matthew 24:36-44*

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Devotional: Prophecy isn't given to satisfy curiosity about timelines but to transform how we live today. If God controls history and has revealed the end from the beginning, what does that mean for your daily choices? Where is your influence being invested? Are you consumed with things that will be "blown away with the wind," or is your primary concern aligned with God's—the salvation of lost souls? The whole reason Christ delays His return is because the harvest isn't complete. God longs for relationship with those who don't yet know Him. As you see prophetic patterns unfolding, let them drive you toward urgency in sharing the gospel and living righteously. Today, examine your priorities. Does your life reflect temporary earthly concerns or eternal kingdom values? What one step can you take today to align more closely with God's heart for the lost?

## Practical Applications:

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice this week:

### **Option 1: Perspective Shift**

- Each day this week when you hear troubling news, pause and pray: "Lord, help me see this from Your perspective. You are sovereign. Your kingdom will prevail."
- Journal about how this practice affects your peace and anxiety levels.

### **Option 2: Priority Check**

- Conduct a personal audit: Track how you spend your time for three days (work, entertainment, ministry, relationships, etc.).
- Compare your time allocation with what you say your priorities are.
- Identify one adjustment you need to make to align your life more closely with God's priorities.

### **Option 3: Eternal Focus**

- Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Christ.
- Pray for them daily this week.
- Look for one opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love to them or share your faith.

### **Option 4: Scripture Meditation**

- Memorize Daniel 7:13-14.
- Reflect on Christ's ultimate victory and eternal kingdom each morning.
- Let this truth shape how you approach your day.

## Small Group Guide: Why do the Nations Rage?

### Discussion Questions:

- How does viewing world empires from God's perspective as 'bestial and barbaric' rather than from man's perspective as 'gold and silver' change the way we evaluate political power and human achievement today?
- In what ways do we see the nations still 'raging against God' in our current world, and how should believers respond to this reality with both truth and grace?

- Daniel received prophetic visions about events that would unfold centuries after his lifetime. How does God's foreknowledge of history strengthen your personal faith during times of uncertainty?
- In his Sermon, Pastor Brad asks where our primary concern lies: the things of this world or the salvation of lost souls. What practical steps can you take this week to realign your priorities with God's heart?
- How does understanding that human governments will ultimately fail help us maintain proper perspective on political engagement while still being responsible citizens?
- The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man imagery points to Christ's ultimate victory and reign. How should this future certainty impact the way you face present difficulties and injustices?
- What does it reveal about human nature that every form of government throughout history has failed to bring lasting peace, and how does this point us to our need for Christ?
- Pastor Brad mentioned that God is waiting to return because the work of salvation is not yet complete. How does this truth motivate you to share the gospel with urgency and hope?
- When you consider the parallel visions in Daniel and Revelation, what does God's consistency in revealing His plan across centuries teach you about His character and faithfulness?
- As you examine your own life, are you living as an instrument of God's work in the world or in opposition to it, and what specific area is the Holy Spirit challenging you to surrender today?

## Further Discussion Questions:

- What struck you most about the difference between how Nebuchadnezzar saw world kingdoms (chapter 2) versus how Daniel saw them (chapter 7)? What does this tell us about human versus divine perspective?
- Review the four beasts in verses 3-8. What characteristics of each empire are highlighted? How were these prophecies remarkably accurate?
- What is significant about the vision of the "Ancient of Days" in verses 9-10? What does this scene reveal about God's character and authority?
- In verses 13-14, Daniel sees "One like the Son of Man" receiving an everlasting kingdom. How does this Old Testament prophecy point to Jesus Christ?
- Pastor Brad stated: "The nations rage against each other...but it's aimed at God." How have you seen this principle at work in current events or even in your own heart?
- Pastor Brad asked: "Where is my influence being put? Where is my time being put? Where is the impact of my life?" How would you honestly answer these questions about your own life right now?
- When you look at world events—conflicts, political turmoil, economic instability—what is your typical emotional response? How might understanding God's sovereignty over history change that response?
- Pastor Brad challenged us to consider whether we're "more concerned with things that will be ultimately worthless" or aligned with "God's primary concern: the salvation of lost souls." Which direction is your life currently leaning?
- Read Psalm 2:1-12. How does this psalm connect with Daniel's vision? What comfort or challenge does it offer you personally?
- Pastor Brad mentioned that "God will allow for mankind to make every attempt at ruling themselves before He steps in to show that it was all futile." Why do you think God allows this? What is He teaching humanity?

- How should prophetic passages like Daniel 7 affect the way we:
  - View current events?
  - Set our priorities?
  - Share our faith?
  - Find peace in troubled times?
  
- The service ended with communion and the question: "What is it in my heart that has me in opposition to what You're doing?" Take time to honestly reflect on this question. Share if you're comfortable.

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