

# Small Group Guide:

## Daniel 7 – The King is Coming



### Warm Up

#### Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** What's "your seat" in your home, and how do you feel when someone else is sitting in it? How does this relate to the idea of earthly rulers temporarily occupying God's throne?



### Know It

#### Key Scripture

**Primary Text:** Daniel 7:1-28

**Supporting Texts:** Daniel 2, Revelation 4-5, Romans 12:1-2

#### Sermon Summary

Pastor Chris explored Daniel's vision of four beasts representing earthly kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome), emphasizing that God remains sovereign even when evil seems to reign. The central message: earthly rulers are temporary, but the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man will establish an eternal kingdom. The critical question for each person is whether they will be identified as "holy ones of the Most High" or with the beast.

#### Discussion Questions

##### Understanding the Text

- **The Four Beasts:** Review the symbolism of the four beasts in Daniel 7:1-8. How does understanding the historical kingdoms help us interpret prophecy? What does this teach us about God's sovereignty over history?
- **Interpreting Scripture:** Pastor Chris mentioned the "bullseye method" for interpreting symbolism (start with the passage, then the book, then other books by the same author, etc.). Why is this important? What dangers exist when we let our imaginations run wild with prophetic passages?

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- **The Ancient of Days (vv. 9-12):** What details stand out to you in Daniel's description of God's throne room? What does this vision reveal about God's character and His ultimate authority?

### Personal Reflection

- **The Main Point:** Pastor Chris emphasized that the focus shouldn't be on the beasts, but on God's sovereignty and the coming King. Why do we often get distracted by end-times speculation rather than focusing on our relationship with Christ?
- **Full Surrender:** The sermon challenged us with the statement: "Partial surrender is no surrender at all." What does full surrender to Christ look like practically? What areas of your life are you still holding back from God?
- **Identity Check:** We will all be identified either as "holy ones of the Most High" or with the beast. How does this sobering reality affect how you live today? What gives you confidence (or concern) about your identity?



### Share It

### Application & Accountability

- **The 1% Problem:** Pastor Chris asked, "What is the little 1% that we're holding back?" Take time for honest self-reflection. What is that area you're not willing to surrender? (Share as you feel comfortable)
- **Living Under Chaos:** Daniel lived under intense persecution and chaos, yet remained faithful. How can we maintain faith and perspective when the world around us seems out of control? How does understanding God's sovereignty help?
- **The Urgency of the Gospel:** The sermon emphasized that we don't know how many days we have left. How should this urgency affect:
  1. Our personal walk with Christ?
  2. Our relationships with unbelieving friends and family?
  3. Our priorities and use of time?

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### Key Takeaways

- **God is absolutely sovereign** - Even under persecution and chaos, God is in control and working for His glory and the good of His people.
- **Earthly kingdoms are temporary** - All human rulers are just temporarily occupying God's throne. The true King is coming.
- **Prophecy points to Christ** - The purpose of prophetic Scripture isn't to satisfy our curiosity but to prepare us for Christ's return.
- **Surrender must be complete** - Partial surrender is no surrender at all. Jesus requires all of us, not just the parts we're comfortable giving.
- **Two identities, two destinies** - We will all stand before Christ and be identified either as "holy ones of the Most High" or with the beast.



### Live It

### Practical Applications

#### This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

- **Surrender Audit:** Set aside 30 minutes to prayerfully examine your life. List areas where you're holding back from full surrender to Christ. Confess them and commit to releasing them to God's control.
- **Perspective Reset:** When you encounter news or situations that feel chaotic, pause and remind yourself: "God is sovereign. This doesn't surprise Him." Journal about how this changes your response.
- **Gospel Urgency:** Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Christ. Pray daily for them and look for one opportunity this week to share your faith or invite them to church.
- **Deep Dive Study:** Spend time comparing Daniel 7 with Revelation 4:1-3 and 5:1-12 as suggested in the sermon. Journal what you discover about God's character and Christ's victory.

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### Prayer

#### Prayer Focus

##### Pray for:

- Hearts fully surrendered to Christ with no areas held back
- Perspective to see God's sovereignty even in chaotic times
- Boldness to share the gospel with urgency
- Those in the group (or loved ones) who haven't fully surrendered to Christ
- Readiness for Christ's return

#### Closing Prayer

Close by praying Romans 12:1-2 over your group, asking God to help each person present themselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.

#### For Further Study

- Read Daniel 8 - 9 in preparation for next week's message
- Explore the sermon notes and blog posts available on the church app
- Consider reading a commentary on Daniel for deeper understanding (suggestions: Tremper Longman III or Sinclair Ferguson)