

Comment

Daniel 7 is told in a typical Hebrew manner that may leave the Western reader somewhat bewildered in regard to the time sequence. The most natural understanding is that the kingdoms removed from power throughout history are evaluated at the final judgment and their principles of government are rejected forever. In the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 2 the kingdoms of this world received a crushing judgment at the end of time. What we see in chapter 7 is the legal heavenly verdict.

Reflect

It may seem obvious, for instance, that the Nazi “Third Reich” and Saddam Hussein’s regime are regarded as unworthy. But why are modern democratic government systems or some “Christian kingdoms” not worthy to last forever?

4. The Only One Worthy to Reign Forever



Read

• Daniel 7:13, 14

Reflect

What makes this “Son of man” worthy to receive power for all eternity?

5. Worship Is the Issue



Read

• Daniel 7:13, 14 and 26

Comment

Note the difference: the little horn—the enemy—speaks words against the Most High and His saints, while the Son of man will be the object of worship for eternity.

6. In Favour of the Saints



Read

• Daniel 7:22

Reflect

Why do you think that judgment is pronounced in favour of the saints? What makes them worthy to take possession of the kingdom?

7. From Heavenly Judgment to Realisation on Earth



Read

• Daniel 7:27

Summary

The judgment in Daniel 7 contains five central elements: (1) God “comes” to His throne to judge, (2) Dominions and kingdoms of history are evaluated and rejected, (3) The “Son of man” is given authority to reign forever, (4) Judgment is passed in favour of the saints, (5) following the legal verdict in heaven, the kingdom is realised on earth.



Number 8. Christ and His Enemies

ClearView

Bible study guide

“It is not possible to recognise antichrist if you do not know who Christ is.” The term antichrist is not used in Daniel 7. Yet, the historical enemy of Christ and His saints is described as “a little horn.” In this lesson we will highlight basic characteristics of the Son of man. Knowing who and how He is will help to recognise the characteristics of the little horn, too.

1. Perfect and Original



Read

• Psalm 8:3-8

Reflect

Is Jesus as the “Son of man” perfect as Adam originally was? In what ways does Jesus differ from Adam? And from all other human beings?

2. Powerless or Powerful?



Read

• Daniel 7:4

Reflect

What does it mean for the lion to become a human being? Is it a sign of strength or weakness? How would you assess the power of someone like a human being in comparison with the wild beasts of prey seen in the vision?

3. Lamb or Monster?



Read

• Revelation 5:6 and 13:1, 2

Background

The book of Revelation presents Christ and His enemies in a different manner from Daniel 7. Yet it employs similar imagery and reuses the beasts seen by Daniel. Jesus is not portrayed as the “Son of man,” but as a bleeding Lamb.

Reflect

How would you assess the chances of a slain Lamb when entering the battlefield to combat monsters like the dragon and the beast from the sea in Revelation 13:1-2? Who is winning the battle? Do you recall situations in your life where you won a significant victory in your personal life by losing in another area of your life?