

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment

Daniel 7

Lesson #4 for July 22, 2006

Scriptures: Daniel 7

1. By comparing Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 can we answer the following questions?:
 - A) Do Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 refer to the same four kingdoms and cover the same time period?
 - B) Can the four beasts/metals be identified?
 - C) Do both of these prophetic visions extend to the end of this earth's history?
 - D) What change is being spoken of in the fourth beast/little horn—the iron legs/feet and toes?
 - E) Does Daniel 7 make it clear that God's judgment takes place *after this change* in the fourth kingdom?
 - F) Do the final scenes of the prophecies in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 represent the second coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of God's new kingdom?
 - G) Is it clear from Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 that no more than four world powers are to arise?
2. What obvious parallels exist between the prophecy of Daniel 2 and that of Daniel 7?
 - A) The same number of different entities appear.
 - B) The final kingdom is different than the others in some interesting ways.
 - C) Both prophecies appear to end up with God establishing his eternal kingdom.
3. If we look at history there are only four kingdoms which could fit these prophecies: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Many Christian scholars outside of the Seventh-day Adventist Church would divide Media and Persia into two separate kingdoms. Why do they choose to do that? Is there biblical evidence for doing that?
4. Seventh-day Adventists in general have seen a parallel in Daniel 8 and therefore identified this second beast as Medo-Persia and the third beast as Greece. Is this solid and valid interpretation of Scripture? (Daniel 8:20; Esther 1:3,14,18)
5. If you do as most Christian scholars do and suggest that the fourth terrible beast represents Antiochus IV Epiphanes then how do you explain the fact that Rome is not mentioned?
6. If Daniel was written in the second century and is not prophetic in any way, how can he suggest that God himself will set up a kingdom? Why does Jesus suggest while here on this earth that some of Daniel's prophecy is still to be fulfilled? (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14)
7. In Daniel 7 we are introduced to a completely new theme—the theme of judgment. If you had only Daniel 7 to go on, how would you describe this judgment? Where would you place it in history? Is there any evidence that there's more than one judgment?
8. Is there any evidence in our study of Daniel so far that he understood that there would be more than one coming of the Messiah?
9. While the iron of the legs of Daniel 2 ends up being mixed with clay—and the 10 horns on the fourth beast end up being changed and some uprooted—Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 clearly suggest that this fourth beast will exist in some form until the end of the world.
10. While the first vision was given initially to Nebuchadnezzar and the second vision directly to Daniel, Daniel 2 appears to restrict its prophecies to secular events while Daniel 7 clearly moves into the area of spiritual matters.
11. What are the parallels between the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay (Daniel 2) and the fourth beast with 10 horns and a little horn (Daniel 7)?
 - A) In both cases a significant change takes place later in their history.
 - B) Both kingdoms last until the end of the world.

- C) The 10 horns seem to be parallel to the 10 toes.
 D) Both of these kingdoms seem to be ultimately eliminated by the establishment of God's own kingdom.
12. What contrasts are there between these two?
 A) The little horn (Daniel 7:20-22) specifically makes war on God's people.
 B) Daniel 2:43 suggests that the kingdoms in the toes will try to unite by intermarriage among themselves but they will not succeed.
 C) Daniel 7:11,12 says the fourth beast was to be killed and its body was thrown into flames and destroyed while the other beasts had power taken away but they were permitted to go on living for a limited time.
 D) The little horn makes very specific efforts to change religious laws and festivals and to control God's people.
13. What identifying marks can we find for the "little horn"?
 A) From where does he arise?
 B) When does he arise?
 C) In what way does he seek to speak against the supreme God and oppress God's people by changing religious laws and festivals and keeping God's people under his power for three and one-half years?
 D) How will the little horn finally be dealt with? (Daniel 7:26).
 E) Apparently immediately after his demise the power of all the kingdoms will be given to God's people and they will rule forever.
14. If the little horn represents Satan's masterpiece in religious deception, wouldn't we expect him to do everything possible to prevent a correct understanding of this prophecy? How successful has he been?
15. Consider how many ways that you can think of in which this little horn might represent Antiochus IV Epiphanes. What parallels can you see? What parallels do you see between the little horn and pagan-papal Rome?
16. How long did the kingdom of Antiochus IV Epiphanes last and trouble God's chosen people? Is there any hint that his kingdom or his successors survived in any way until the end of the world? If the judgment is supposed to take place during the time of this little horn what judgment took place in the days of Antiochus IV Epiphanes? Did the heavenly courts judge Antiochus IV Epiphanes and take away his power? Then destroy him?
17. Read again Daniel 7:25. This little horn power will blaspheme and speak against the Supreme God and oppress God's people.
18. Look back over Daniel 2. What was the major message that God was trying to communicate to Nebuchadnezzar?
19. Look back over Daniel 7. What was the major message that God was trying to communicate to Daniel? Were these messages the same, similar, or different? How long was the time period separating the giving of these two visions?
20. Daniel 7 mentions "the saints of the most high" four times: Daniel 7:18, 22, 25, 27. Nothing of this is mentioned in Daniel 2. Is this a completely new factor in the prophecy?
21. Before the days of higher criticism almost all biblical scholars agreed that the 3 ½ years of Daniel 7:25 were the same as those referred to in Daniel 12:7; Revelation 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5. If we can correctly apply the year-day principal to this time period It refers to 1260 years. (3 ½ years = 42 months = 1260 days)
22. Given the setting of this verse (Daniel 7:25) would you expect the time period mentioned here

to be literal or symbolic?

23. The Pope and the people of Rome managed to conquer a much larger force of Visigoths that surrounded their city in the year 538 A.D. Did anything of significance happen 1260 years later?
24. Soon after this time period the judgment is supposed to begin. Clearly the judgment takes place in heaven. (Daniel 7:9,10,26)
25. Based strictly on the information we have here in Daniel 7, how much detail do we know about this judgment?
 - A) It takes place in heaven.
 - B) It occurs before the establishment of God's kingdom on this earth.
 - C) Somehow this judgment will deal with the false religious system and reintroduce the truth to God's people.
 - D) Based on Daniel 7:25 the judgment should stop the blasphemous speech of the little horn, stop the oppression of God's true people, and reestablish the correct religious laws and festivals. Doesn't this seem to imply a correction of all the false religious teachings that the little horn has propounded?
 - E) God seems to be sitting as Judge and Christ approaches him and is actively involved in the judgment and this happens before his return to this earth. (Daniel 7:13,14)
26. Is there any other way to interpret this information except by a pre-advent judgment?
27. Clearly this sequence of little horn-judgment-coming kingdom is a major one in Daniel 7. It is repeated three times: Daniel 7:7-10, 14; 19-22; and 24-27. Is there any suggestion that these events are not chronological?
28. Daniel 7 suggests that this judgment will ultimately result in the destruction of the little horn, but it will also lead almost immediately into the second coming.
29. The vision of Daniel 7 was given to Daniel in the first year of Belshazzar. This was a number of years before the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus, the Persian. Do you think Daniel told either Darius or Cyrus about this vision? Might that have had something to do with their welcoming him into their government?
30. Are you clear in your thinking now about the sequence in this prophecy? How confident are you about the sequence of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, pagan Rome, papal Rome, judgment in heaven, and second coming of Jesus Christ?
31. In this lesson we have sought to establish the following points:
 - A) Daniel 2 covers essentially the same history as Daniel 7 and the same time period.
 - B) The 4 metals and the four beasts are describing Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
 - C) Both prophecies clearly extend until God actively comes and establishes his kingdom here on this earth.
 - D) A significant change takes place in the fourth kingdom.
 - E) God's judgment takes place after this time of persecution and change.
 - F) The second coming occurs only after all of these events.
 - G) Neither prophecy allows for the arising of any other world power.Do you agree with these points? Do you have questions about them?

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Info@theox.org

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<i>Parallels between Daniel's Three Main Prophecies</i>			
Identification	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8
Babylon (Dan. 2:38,39)	Gold	Lion	Not represented
Medo-Persia (Dan. 8:20)	Silver	Bear	Ram
Greece (Dan. 8:21)	Bronze	Leopard	Goat
Divisions of Greece	Not represented	4 heads and wings	4 horns
Rome, Imperial	Iron	4 th beast	Little horn, phase 1
Divisions	Iron and clay	10 horns	Not represented
Rome, Papal	Not represented	Little horn	Little horn, phase 2
Pre-advent judgment	Not represented	Heavenly court scene, Ancient of days	Cleansing of the sanctuary at the end of the 2300 days
Kingdom of God	Stone kingdom	Saints of Most High ruled by Son of man	Not represented