

“Changed by the Ancient of Days”

Scribes called this the greatest chapter in the Old Testament. As we move from the emphasis and section on the Prophet (Daniel 1-6) to Prophecy (Daniel 7-12), we must not forget that the main character in the book of Daniel is God.

I. Circumstances Surrounding the Vision.

While this vision occurs in chapter 7, the actual time of the vision was more in line with the ending of Neb. reign ends and Belshazzar begins his reign. Daniel would have been about 67 years old.

In all of the previous visions, Daniel is the one who has interpreted the dreams. Now he is the one having the dream.

I'm not going into details about the dream today because it is almost totally like the previous one in chapter two. The four main kingdoms of this world are seen this time through animals and not precious metals.

But may be Daniel is like Isaiah. This is like the experience that Isaiah had when King Uzziah died but he saw the Lord high and lifted up.

II. Sovereign Seated in the Vision.

When Daniel sees this vision, he sees two unique persons in this vision:

1. Ancient of Days

This is the only time “Ancient of Days” is mentioned. It speaks of his eternity. Ancient means -”Long” - He is Long on Days.

Notice His description and what it means about Him:

- * His Majesty - He is seated on a throne in the midst of thrones. What must it have been like to experience His being seated on the throne. Every time we see the throne, it is occupied.
- * His Wisdom - His hair was like pure wool. This speaks of His wisdom that comes with old age. He was able to sort things out fairly. He always did right.
- * His Purity - His garment was white as snow - not soiled. He has never been soiled with the mistakes of this world. He persistently choose the right with no error. There was never any selfishness or conflict of interest in His heart or judgements.
- * His Power - His throne was a fiery flame and a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. Holman Bible says “river of fire was flowing - coming out of his presence.” The image of fire is one of divine judgement - feariest - power to destroy His enemies. This speaks of His judgement and the power to carry out His judgement.

Further look at his power - He is surrounded by myriads upon myriad of angels. If one angel can take care of 187,000 Assyrians, what can myriads of them do? He is well equipped to execute His judgement.

* His Omnipresence - It's wheels a burning flame. His throne was a chariot throne in Ezekiel. The point is that he never leaves His throne. Everywhere He goes, He is seated on the throne. He is in control!!

2. Son of Man

He is called "the son of man." There are two Biblical interpretations of this phrase: 1. A literal human being. This is mainly the interpretation of the 90 times it is used in the book of Ezekiel.

2. Jesus Christ. The reference here is of a divine being dwelling in Heaven. This is the same one who comes to earth as Jesus. The favorite title that Jesus used of Himself was "son of man."

31 times alone in the book of Matthew he uses this title.

When Jesus is being questioned by the high priest in Mark 14, the priest asked "Are You the Christ, the Son of the blessed?" Jesus responds (verse 62), "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest accused Jesus of blasphemy and ordered his death.

III. Person Stunned by the Vision.

And we note with interest in verse 28 the response of Daniel to all of this. ESV says, "he was greatly alarmed and his color changed."

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November 22, 2009 10:15 a.m.

Daniel 7
Daniel Series #9

He was moved by all that he saw and experienced. The ESV notes described Daniel as “stunned.”

As we approach this chapter and the remaining part of the book, there are two extremes that we must avoid in this series:

1. That we completely overlook this section.
2. That we get so caught up in all the details that we overlook the main point.

The main point: The Most High is the reigning king in heaven and earth. There is opposition to His rule, but he remains in control.

Warren Wiersbe said, It is a “dangerous thing to study prophecy just to satisfy our curiosity or to give people the impression that we are ‘great Bible students.’ If divine truth doesn’t touch our own hearts and affect our conduct, then our Bible study is only an intellectual exercise to inflate our own ego.”

Titus 2:11-14 teaches us that the “blessed hope” should cause us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age.

Oh, may we be changed as we see the “Ancient of Days.” Like Isaiah seeing his own sinfulness and volunteering for service or Saul seeing the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and being blinded until his eyes were opened to the glorious gospel.