

Thriving in Babylon
Seeing the True King and His Kingdom
Daniel 7:1-28

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / April 29, 2018

I. It's Not Wrong to Be Troubled and Even Terrified by All the Chaos and Evil that's Going On in our World

As courageous as Daniel was this vision terrified him and had an effect on him.

Daniel 7:15 “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.”

The Hebrew word for ‘grieved’ in **v. 15** is a word that means to be afflicted or made uneasy or anxious. The word for ‘troubled’ is a word that means to be terrified, alarmed or horrified by all that you’re sensing.

Daniel 7:28 “This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed...”

V. 1-8 were meant to scare you and to remind you that every earthly kingdom is a sinful one that can easily go off the rails to destroy itself and others around it.

These verses should keep us from being so naïve about human history and so gullible as to think that some new regime or new political party will ever usher us into some cosmic therapy or ultimate peace.

II. It's Not Right to Think that God's Not Presently on His Throne and Will Not Put an End to All the Evil of This World

V. 9 is an abrupt transition from the chaos of earthly kingdoms to a breath-taking throne room that is also a courtroom.

Daniel 7:9-10 “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered before Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”

Seeing God's throne in the midst of all our earthly chaos doesn't keep all of God's people from pain, but it should keep us from panic. While we may be fearful at times, we should never be frantic because our God is right now ruling and reigning.

Daniel focuses on the throne of God even though he can still see the destruction, terror, and chaos of earthly kingdoms raging.

We should live our lives with our eyes firmly fixed on the heavenly throne instead of obsessing over the horrors of our world.

III. It's Not Wise to Focus on Knowing More about the Future Without Knowing More about the One Who Holds the Future

When you don't know God, you won't have courage and you won't do much of anything outside of your own little, personal comfort zone.

Daniel 11:32 "... but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

IV. You're No Fool to Want to Live and Give Your Life for the One Who Already Gave His Life for You!

Once again Jesus shows up in the book of Daniel back in the Old Testament.

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him."

A. The 'Son of Man' was Jesus' Favorite Name for Himself

Eighty-one times in the Gospels and forty-one times in Matthew alone Jesus refers to Himself as the 'Son of Man.'

B. Claiming to Be the 'Son of Man' was What Sent Him to the Cross

That's what we see **Matthew 26:62-66** as Jesus was on trial before Caiaphas the High Priest.

Jesus was claiming that **Daniel 7** was talking about Him, His incarnation, His glorious ascension, as well as His eternal kingdom that's been given to Him by His Father. Jewish leaders sent Him to the cross for that.

C. The 'Son of Man' Has Called Us to Tell the Sons of Men All Over this World Who the True King Is

The Ancient of Days has given the Son of Man the nations as His inheritance!

Daniel 7:14 "Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed."

King Jesus has been given all authority and He calls us to go into all the world and tell others about this good King and His eternal kingdom! That's what Jesus has called us to do in **Matthew 28:18-20**.

Jesus has delayed His return for the simple reason that more people can come to know Him as their Savior!