

Life Group Notes 11/14/2021 Streamed Week 82
Pastor Mark Daniel Week 7 Chapter 7

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**) The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the second bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER: How is this holiday season shaping up for you? What is going to be different this year? Or...What is the best news you heard this week? —The scribe

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to fearlessly proclaim the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Pastor Mark's message from this Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Why is it important to study these prophecies? Mark says, "Because if history is correct, then these visions are correct. If the four beasts that Daniel saw came true, the rest of the vision will come true." **How does that work?** Before beginning with the beasts, Mark looked at verses 13-14

13In my vision in the night I continued to watch,

and I saw One like the Son of Man
coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days
and was led into His presence.

14And He was given dominion,
glory, and kingship,
that the people of every nation and language

should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that will not pass away,
and His kingdom is one
that will never be destroyed. **Who is this? Can you identify Him? How does this fact help keep everything else in perspective? So why did Mark read this first? What is absolute fact when it comes to Bible prophecy? What is conjecture? How do YOU keep them straight, fact and conjecture? How many times in your memory has the world "come to an end" but forgot to come to an end? (You can check out: 88 reasons Why The Rapture Will Be in 1988: The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hash-Ana) September, 11-12-13: Edgar C. Whisenant: Amazon.com: Books)**

Now read: Daniel 7...Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts
(Revelation 13:1-10)

1In the first year of the reign of Belshazzar over Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he lay on his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is the summary of his account. **Notice the timing. How do we know Daniel was not written in chronological order? Is that important? Why? Does it matter that this dream took place before Chapter 5 happened?**

2Daniel declared: "In my vision in the night I looked, and suddenly the four winds of heaven were churning up the great sea. **3**Then four great beasts came up out of the sea, each one different from the others:

4The first beast was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and given the mind of a man. **Give your first impressions. How does this compare to Nebuchadnezzar's own experience, when he lost his "wings" ...but got restored and given "the mind of a man" in the end? Does that fit?**

5Suddenly another beast appeared, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. So it was told, 'Get up and gorge yourself on flesh!' **Give your first impressions. The Medes and the Persians devoured Egypt, Babylon and a third empire, Lydia. Does this fit as "ribs"?**

6Next, as I watched, another beast appeared. It was like a leopard, and on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. **First impressions?** (Scribe's note: It is true that Alexander the Great's empire, when he died, was divided three ways...It is also true that the

language of Alexander, Koine Greek, became the language of commerce for the known world from Spain to India...which paved the way for a New Testament that could be read wherever books were sold.)

7After this, as I watched in my vision in the night, suddenly a fourth beast appeared, and it was terrifying—dreadful and extremely strong—with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed; then it trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns. **8**While I was contemplating the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like those of a man and a mouth that spoke words of arrogance. ***First impressions? What does this teach you? What is with the horns?*** Pastor Mark explains, “Horns speak of rule, authority and kingship.” ***What do you see with these horns?***

Daniel’s Vision of the Ancient of Days

9As I continued to watch,

thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took His seat.
His clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

10A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from His presence.
Thousands upon thousands attended Him,
and myriads upon myriads stood before Him.
The court was convened,
and the books were opened. ***Does the Ancient of Days sit down before, after...or while the horn is speaking arrogant words? Why is this important?***

11Then I kept watching because of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued to watch, the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. **12**As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but they were granted an extension of life for a season and a time. ***How long does it take to slay the beast and destroy his works? Why is this encouraging?***

Daniel’s Vision of the Son of Man

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and I saw One like the Son of Man
coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days

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14And He was given dominion,
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that the people of every nation and language
should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that will not pass away,
and His kingdom is one

that will never be destroyed. ***Reading this passage a second time in its proper place...how encouraging is it, when it seems very dark indeed today?***

Daniel's Visions Interpreted

15I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit, and the visions in my mind alarmed me. **16**I approached one of those who were standing there, and I asked him the true meaning of all this. ***Do you understand Daniel's reaction? What is the wisest thing you can do when you do not understand what you see?***

So he told me the interpretation of these things: ***What does Daniel get for asking?*** **17**'These four great beasts are four kings who will arise from the earth. **18**But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever—yes, forever and ever.' ***What is the focus of the response? Notice that this verse 18 is placed deliberately before the interpretation? Why do you think that would be? Why is it important to keep the return of "One like the Son of Man" in focus?***

19Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others—extremely terrifying—devouring and crushing with iron teeth and bronze claws, then trampling underfoot whatever was left. **20**I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn whose appearance was more imposing than the others, with eyes and with a mouth that spoke words of arrogance. **21**As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and prevailing against them, **22**until the Ancient of Days arrived and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for them to possess the kingdom. ***How bad does it get for the saints of the most high? How do you resist such a beast? Did Jesus warn of those days? What did He say?***

23This is what he said: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on the earth, different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth, trample it down, and crush it. **24**And the ten horns are ten kings who will rise from this kingdom. After them another king, different from the earlier ones, will rise and subdue three kings. **25**He will speak out against the Most High and oppress the saints of the Most High, intending to change the appointed times and laws; and the saints will be given into his hand for a time, and times, and half a time. ***What does that look like for the saints? Do the saints face "the Tribulation"? Do they face tribulation? What is the difference the suffering saint?***

Pastor Mark points out that this is the one called the “Antichrist,” first mentioned in Daniel, and spoken of by Jesus in the gospels and in the Revelation. “He is not one to point people to Jesus.” **What else do you know of the Antichrist?** The World Economic Forum. Led by Klaus Schwab, has called for “The Great Reset.” They seek a one world system to solve the challenges of these times. By 2030 you will own nothing, and you will be happy. On the [World Economic Forum website](#), Schwab stated that the COVID-19 pandemic “represents a rare but narrow window of opportunity to reflect, reimagine, and reset our world to create a healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous world.” **What does this do to your imagination? What must we do to prepare, knowing the days ahead are foretold, and unprecedented?**

26But the court will convene, and his dominion will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. **27**Then the sovereignty, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven will be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey Him.’ **What is lasting? What is temporary?**

28Thus ends the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts troubled me greatly, and my face turned pale. But I kept the matter to myself.” **Explain why this is a good idea, to keep it to himself.**

Extra credit: Look at the beast in Revelation 13: **1**Then I saw a beast with ten horns and seven heads rising out of the sea. There were ten royal crowns on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. **2**The beast I saw was like a leopard, with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. **How does this one beast compare to the four of Daniel? Note the similarities!**

3One of the heads of the beast appeared to be mortally wounded. But the mortal wound was healed, and the whole world marveled and followed the beast. **4**They worshiped the dragon who had given authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can wage war against it?” **How does this compare?**

5The beast was given a mouth to speak arrogant and blasphemous words, and authority to act for 42 months. **6**And the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God and to slander His name and His tabernacle—those who dwell in heaven.

7Then the beast was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them, and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. **8**And all who dwell on the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain.

9He who has an ear, let him hear:

10 “If anyone is destined for captivity,
into captivity he will go;
if anyone is to die by the sword,
by the sword he must be killed.”

Here is a call for the perseverance and faith of the saints. ***Do the saints face difficulties?
How will we know these times? How do we prepare?***

Jesus said, “In this world you will have trials, but fear not. I have overcome the world.” How does this help?

Why is it important that we know these scriptures? How terrifying will it be for those who have not been forewarned with the promises? Why is it important for our neighbors to know them? What are we being called to do in these days? What are our first steps?

How important is it to take time to pray for one another? Do it now.

What is your biggest takeaway from this message? What is your next step? —the scribe