

Series: The Book of Daniel

Sermon: Now Introducing, “The Son of Man”

Passage: Daniel 7 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: God’s people can navigate all earthly difficulty by being rooted in grounded in faith to the Son of Man!

I. Apocalyptic Prophecy & Literature

- “Apocalyptic literature is symbolic visionary prophetic literature, composed during oppressive conditions, consisting of visions whose events are recorded exactly as they are seen by the author and explained through a divine interpreter, and whose theological content is primarily eschatological (related to the end times).” Ralph Alexander (DTS 1968)
- Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Isaiah in the OT; only Revelation in the NT.

II. The Terror in Daniel’s First Vision (7:1-8; 15-21; 23-25)

- Belshazzar’s 1st year (553 BC); 50 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s dream; Daniel 68-70 years old.
- “Most comprehensive & detailed prophecy of future events found in the OT.” John Walvoord
- Lion with eagles wings. The head of Gold (chap 2). Empire of Babylon.
- Bear with raised side & 3 ribs in its mouth. The shoulders chest and arms of Silver (chap 2). Empire of Medes & Persians.
- Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads. The mid-section of Bronze (chap 2). Empire of Greece.
- Terrifying & Dreadful beast with iron teeth, 10 horns, and one small horn with eyes and an a mouth. The legs of iron and feet of iron mixed with clay (chap 2). Empire of Rome and beyond...?
- The 4th beast is different from the preceding three as the whole earth is affected.
- 10 horns are rulers; 11th horn seems to be Anti-christ (Matt. 24; 2 Thes 2; 1 John 2, 4; Rev 13, 17, 19).

III. The Hope in Daniel’s First Vision (7:9-14; 26-28)

- In contrast to all the things that frightened Daniel his attention is shifted to the heavenly realm.
- The Ancient of Days is the eternal God the Father the supreme sovereign over all His creation.
- God’s judgment on the Gentile empires of the earth is determined and will be complete.
- The Ultimate Hero in Daniel is found in verse 13, the one like a Son of Man - the Stone of chapter 2!
- That He comes “with the clouds of heaven” connects Him to God.
- That He is “like a son of man” connects Him to humanity.
- This Son of Man is the God-man, Jesus; the crucified, risen and ascended Savior, Lord & King!
- “Son of Man” used 82 times in the 4 gospels: Matt. 30xs; Mark 14xs; Luke 25xs; John 13xs in 78 verses!
- **John 3:13-14; Luke 21:27-28; Mark 14:61-61; Matthew 16:27; Revelation 1:7; Psalm 2:6-9**
- The Son of Man receives from the Ancient of Days:
 - Dominion/Authority that is everlasting. Unlike the temporary kingdoms of this world.
 - Glory for what His life and death has accomplished. Unlike the fake glory of the empires.
 - Kingdom where all nations and peoples will serve Him forever.

IV. Our Responses

- Surrender to the Son of Man and the Ancient of Days.
- Worship the Son of Man and the Ancient of Days.
- Trust in the Son of Man and the Ancient of Days.
- Obey the Son of Man and the Ancient of Days.