



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 5

Pastor Jacob shared a message based on Daniel chapter 7 and returned to the theme of resistance that is prevalent in the book. Daniel had visions and dreams of his own that required interpretation. This week, consider what God might be saying to you through unusual things in your day.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: DANIEL 7.1-11

Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar's reign in Babylon, Daniel had a dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is what he saw.

² In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction. ³ Then four huge beasts came up out of the water, each different from the others.

⁴ The first beast was like a lion with eagles' wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human being. And it was given a human mind.

⁵ Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, "Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!"

⁶ Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It had four bird's wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.

⁷ Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had ten horns.

⁸ As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.

⁹ I watched as thrones were put in place
and the Ancient One sat down to judge.

His clothing was as white as snow,
his hair like purest wool.

He sat on a fiery throne
with wheels of blazing fire,

¹⁰ and a river of fire was pouring out,
flowing from his presence.

Millions of angels ministered to him;
many millions stood to attend him.

Then the court began its session,
and the books were opened.

¹¹ I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn's boastful speech. I kept watching until the fourth beast was killed and its body was destroyed by fire.

- Daniel's dream is strange but somewhat cohesive. How often does your dream start in one direction only to take a wacky turn? The fourth beast in Daniel's dream seems a bit like a wacky turn. *What did Daniel eat last night?* Daniel stayed with the dream until he saw that the fourth beast was destroyed by fire. **What stands out to you about this vision?** You may have noticed that this chapter and the remaining chapters were written in the first person. The previous chapters were not. The previous chapters were *about* him, but these he seems to have written down with his own hand. **Do you have a practice of sharing or recording your dreams? How does God speak to you most often?**
- *God, come and speak to me however you will. In waking or sleeping, tune my heart to your revelation. Amen.*

TUESDAY: DANIEL 7.13-14

As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence.¹⁴ He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

- The son of man descended from heaven and was given all of the authority, honor, and sovereignty that had existed with all of the earthly rulers. It was the great consolidation of power. The reign of the son of man will never end. It's difficult to imagine choosing a temporary earthly king over the eternal King, the Son of Man. **Do people still choose temporary kings over the eternal King today? Are you ever tempted to do so? What would help you to reside solely in the kingdom of the eternal King?**
- *Jesus, you are my King. Your Kingdom will never end. Come reign in my heart today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: DANIEL 7.15-18

I, Daniel, was troubled by all I had seen, and my visions terrified me.¹⁶ So I approached one of those standing beside the throne and asked him what it all meant. He explained it to me like this:¹⁷ “These four huge beasts represent four kingdoms that will arise from the earth.¹⁸ But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever.”

- As Pastor Jacob asked, “How does your dream make you feel?” Daniel was deeply troubled by all he had seen. Many of our dreams are so troubling that we might be tempted to forget about them. The interpretation of this dream is simple compared to its shocking imagery. There are many kingdoms, rulers, beasts that seem to be in charge in this world but ultimately those who worship God will be given the kingdom and they will rule forever. **Do you relate to the images of beasts that seem to consume us in our time? How do you put these beasts/kingdoms in context when it comes to the power of our God?**
- *God, come and rule over all the kingdoms of this earth. I am aware of the beasts of this world that rear their ugly heads. But I look to your beautiful kingdom coming. Amen.*

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 26.62-64

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?”⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

⁶⁴ *Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

- Jesus didn’t respond to the accusations because he was never officially charged. The whole thing was a sham. Instead of claiming his own identity as the Messiah, he allowed the words of accusers, and later, his own actions to speak. His defeat of death was the final defeat of the beast that sought to take down his everlasting kingdom. “And in the future you will see the Son of Man...” Jesus has returned to sit at the right hand of God, but at the same time, we wait for his return in the clouds of heaven. It may sound scary (and surely it did for Daniel as well) but it is a good time to be alive! **How does it feel in this present age to say, “Come Lord Jesus, Come.”?**
- *Jesus, you are the Son of God and Son of Man, come and make all things new. Amen.*

FRIDAY: REVELATION 14.14-16

Then I saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like the Son of Man. He had a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

¹⁵ *Then another angel came from the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, “Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come; the crop on earth is ripe.”¹⁶ So the one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the whole earth was harvested.*

- Most agree that the Son of Man referred to here is Jesus. Jesus himself used this language. The sickle is a sign of judgment, but instead of being a weapon, the sickle is a tool of agriculture. It is time for the harvest and for those who wait for him, this will be a time of rejoicing, for the crop is bountiful. **How have you typically viewed the image of the sickle? How is that image impacted when it is held in the hands of a good and righteous God?**
- *I look to you Jesus. Come with power, might, and mercy. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 80.16-19

*Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.*

¹⁷*Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.*

¹⁸*Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.*

¹⁹*Restore us, Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.*

- The language of the “son of man” in much of the Hebrew scripture is often referring to any human—Adam—made from earth. But there are hints throughout the Bible that seem to point to Jesus. God desires to bring the restoration of the earth through the One He has raised up. **Do you see Jesus in Old Testament passages? How does this unfolding story of God’s salvation through Jesus impact the way you read the Bible?**
- *God, you have set in motion a plan for salvation that is greater than anything I can see or read in one glance. Thank you for making a way for me to know you and live under your reign forever. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

We learned about Daniel’s dream and the interpretation he was given. The interpretation often requires more interpretation. Pastor Jacob shared about a weird occurrence while writing this week’s sermon. In sharing it, we may find out if it was just a strange occurrence, or if it was filled with meaning.

- What is the last dream you remember?
- Has a dream ever ended up revealing something important about your life?
- How do you discern a dream’s significance?