

## Daniel 7:13-28 – One Like a Son of Man

In chapter 7, Daniel recounted the dream, the vision of the night, which he had when Babylon was nearing the end of its dominance. He saw four beasts which came up out of the sea. The first was like a lion, the second was like a bear and the third was like a leopard. The fourth beast was different from the other three beasts. The fourth beast had ten horns and a little horn emerged which had eyes and a mouth which spoke arrogant words. Then the dream took a dramatic shift in verse 9 when thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days was seated. The court sat in judgment and books were opened. The beast was killed and its body delivered for burning. That is the introduction for verses 13-28.

### **Read Daniel 7:13-14.**

In verse 13, what did Daniel see? What is the significance of coming “with the clouds of heaven”? See Exodus 16:10, 19:9; Psalm 97:2, 104:3. The phrase “clouds of heaven” is only found in the Bible here and in Matthew 24:30, 26:64 and Mark 14:62. Matthew 26:64 and Mark 14:62 are what Jesus said at his “trial” before the chief priest. “You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven”. “Seated at the right hand” is most likely a reference to Psalm 110:1, a strong Messianic passage. Was “Son of Man ... coming on the clouds of heaven” a reference to Daniel 7:13? Why did Jesus call himself “the Son of Man”? Does that title come from this verse? Some Jews interpreted Daniel 7:13-14 as a Messianic passage. (7:13)

In verse 14, what was given to the “one like a son of man”? How was this kingdom characterized? How was it different from the kingdoms of the four beasts? (7:14)

### **Read Daniel 7:15-18.**

How did Daniel react to the dream? Why do you think he reacted this way? (7:15)

In verse 16, what did Daniel do to understand the meaning of the dream? This may remind us of Nebuchadnezzar who had a dream in chapter two which troubled him and caused him to seek help to understand the meaning. In verse 7:16, who helped Daniel understand the dream? (7:16)

In verse 17, what do the four beasts represent? In verse 23, the fourth beast was also a kingdom. As we mentioned in chapter 2, the kings who put the kingdoms on the map are initially the focus but with them come the kingdoms which they establish which will continue for a time after they die. In verse 18, what encouragement was given to counteract the four beasts? When did/will verse 18 occur? (7:17-18)

**Read Daniel 7:19-22.**

Daniel focused on the fourth beast which was different from the other beasts. Verses 19-20 are mostly a repeat of verses 7-8. Verses 19-20 do contain some new information about the fourth beast. It had claws of bronze. Also, the other horn, or little horn, seemed greater than its companions. In verse 21, what new information was given about the little horn? In verse 22, what stopped the reign of terror of the little horn? When did/will verse 22 occur? (7:19-22)

**Read Daniel 7:23-28.**

Verse 23 basically contains the same information as verses 7 and 19 except that we learn that the fourth kingdom will devour the whole earth. (7:23)

In verse 24, what do the ten horns of the fourth beast represent? Some have assigned specific names to each of the kings. The lists of ten kings are varied. Should “ten” be taken literally or does “ten” represent a full/complete number of kings? Are/were the ten kings successive kings or are/were they all contemporaries? (7:24)

In verses 24-25 new information was given about the little horn who spoke arrogant words. What was the nature of the little horn’s words? What other information was given about the little horn? Who is/was the little horn? Martin Luther associated the little horn with the popes and the Roman Catholic Church. Some identify the little horn as Antiochus Epiphanes. Others identify the little horn as the coming anti-Christ. John Calvin identified the little horn as the Caesars of the Roman Empire. (7:24-25)

In verses 25, how long did the little horn’s reign of terror last? In verse 26, how was the little horn’s reign of terror stopped? (7:25-26)

How was the kingdom of verse 27 described? Who were the recipients of this kingdom? What is this kingdom? When does/has this kingdom come? (7:27)

In verse 28, how did Daniel respond to the interpretation? (7:28)