



Part II — “The Ancient of Days & the Son of Man” — 7 August 2022

Introduction

The narrative of Daniel 1-4 has described key events in the lives of Daniel and his friends which center upon their interactions with the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. Two themes have emerged which provoke certain questions:

1. God’s people are in exile! → *Will they trust in His _____ and _____?*
2. God’s people face opposition! → *Will they continue as His _____, trusting Him to protect and deliver them?*

Main Point: The hope of God’s people in the face of opposition and in the midst of exile is centered on the person of the Son of Man who comes to bring both the _____ and _____ of the Most High God.

Daniel’s First Vision—Daniel 7:1-14

The Vision of the Beasts (7:1-8)

Observations

1. The visions occurred after the death of Nebuchadnezzar during a time of political instability.

2. The initial imagery of the vision indicates that the vision concerned the realm of world _____.
“the great sea” (Isa. 17:12) “the four winds of heaven” (Zech. 6:5)

⇒ The visions deals with the same subject as that of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Dan. 2) but from a much different perspective.

“The vision of chapter 2 was given to a pagan king and therefore portrayed history as a man would view it, each empire having at least some intrinsic value. The vision of chapter 7, however, was given to a man of God, and to him God reveals the nations of history as they really are...portrayed as God sees them—wild, ferocious beasts, continually fighting and devouring each other.” —J.Y. Campbell

3. In the vision, Daniel saw four beasts which came out from the sea.

- (1) A beast like a _____ with the wings of an eagle. (The _____ Empire)
- (2) A beast like a _____ that had three ribs in its mouth. (The _____ - _____ Empire)
- (3) A beast like a _____ with four wings on its back. (The _____ Empire)
- (4) A _____ and _____ beast with great iron teeth. (The _____ Empire)

This beast has eleven _____, one of which is singled out from the rest. (The _____ - _____ Empire)

* The ten horns arise after the fourth beast (Dan. 7:24). This kingdom has both a *near* and *far* element, indicating that there is a *gap* in time between when it first arises and when these final elements of the vision come to pass.

“This suggests that the future phase of the fourth beast—that involving both the ten kings and the little horn—will arise out of the territories and/or political spheres that once constituted the ancient Roman Empire.” —J. Paul Tanner

4. The little horn is described as one who is like a _____.
“eyes like...a man” “a mouth speaking great things”

Key Point: The vision depicts the true _____ of the gentile nations that would rule in succession over God’s people until the coming of the end-time Antagonist (Antichrist).

The Vision of the Ancient of Days (7:9-12)

Observations

1. The vision pictures a _____ or _____ setting.

2. The imagery of the vision conveys worthiness of God to **judge**.

The Description of the Ancient of Days

Fire

Books

3. The actions of the Ancient of Days demonstrate His sovereign power over the “horn” and the “beast.”

Key Point: The vision depicts the sovereign power of the God of Heaven over the kingdoms of men which results in kings being **removed or set up according to His will**.

The Vision of the Son of Man (7:13-14)

Observations

1. The imagery of this figure is both **divine** and **human**.

“the clouds of heaven” (Psa. 104:3)

“a son of man” (Psa. 8:3-4)

2. The son of man is allowed into the presence of the Ancient of Days.

“he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him”

3. The son of man is judged worthy and is given a kingdom and dominion over all the earth.

⇒ The son of man is deemed worthy to be **worshiped** by all nations.

“serve”

⇒ The son of man shares the **rule** and “everlasting” dominion of the Most High (Dan. 4:34) and the kingdom he receives is the one which God promised would be set up in the **latter days** and that shall not be “destroyed” (Dan. 2:44).

Key Point: The vision **contrasts** the Ancient of Days’ judgment of the son of man with that of the “little horn.”

Implications for Biblical Theology

- “Son of Man” was the title that **Jesus** used most often of Himself during His earthly ministry.

Mark 10:45—*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

Mark 14:61-62—⁶¹ ... *Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”* ⁶² *And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”*

- The “son of man” vision is related to important aspects of Jesus’ work as Messiah.

(1) *His Ascension*

(2) *His Second Coming*

“...the cloud motif at v. 13 associates vv. 13-14 with both Jesus’ ascension to the Father’s right hand as well as to his return in glory to claim his victory and impose his kingly rule upon the world he created and went to the cross for. With his ascension to the Father’s right hand, he has been proclaimed “Lord” (Acts 2:36) and possesses “all authority” (which he uses for building his church); with his second coming he will use his authority to bring the whole world into submission.” —J. Paul Tanner

Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- The Son of Man is worthy to receive the worship of His people!

Rev. 1:12-18—¹² *Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.*

¹⁷ *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.*