

DANIEL

DETERMINING TO GO GOD'S WAY – SPIRITUAL LIVING IN A SECULAR WORLD

Session 7 – Chapter 7

Thy Kingdom Come

- *Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.*
- *Please read entire chapter before answering the questions.*

1. The sea is used in many prophecies to represent the nations of the world. If that is the picture here, how would you explain verses 2-3?

2. The turbulent sea is a common element in biblical visions about future events. Read the following verses and summarize how each one portrays the sea.

Isaiah 57:20:

Ezekiel 32:2-4:

Isaiah 17:12-13:

Read these verses and explain how God relates to the raging sea.

Habakkuk 3:14-15:

Nahum 1:2-6:

Isaiah 27:1:

Psalms 74:12-14

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While Daniel received the vision in chapter 7 as a direct revelation from God, he also uses images that will connect with his readers – the captive people of Israel in Babylon and (later) the people of God living under the rule of tyrants or oppressive nations. The sea in the mythology of Babylon was a force set against God and the created order. The image of the sea in turmoil was designed to produce a sense of horror in readers and to heighten their anticipation of the eruption of evil times and, right on cue, evil beasts emerge from the churning waters of Daniel's vision. ~ Douglas Connelly A deeper look at Daniel

3. Daniel sees four beasts that, according to verse 17, represent four kingdoms. The lion-like appearance of the first beast may represent that kingdom's strength and majesty. What characteristics of the second, third and fourth kingdoms are suggested by the images in verses 5-7?

"History supports the accuracy of Daniel's interpretation. The Babylonian Empire ruled until the Medes and Persians overtook Babylon in 539 BC. Then, in 331 BC, Alexander the Great conquered Babylon. Rome's power flourished elsewhere soon after Babylon had essentially been dismantled and the inhabitants dispersed."

~ The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Daniel

4. Why is it important to you, or in general, that history backs up Daniel's claims? What does this suggest about the rest of Daniel's prophecies? About the prophecies that haven't yet been fulfilled.

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REFLECTION – GOING FORWARD

- Think of **ONE or TWO** things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week.
 - *You can list these things on page one of your study binder titled Going Forward.*
Remember that this is all about QUALITY, not QUANTITY. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try).
- There are plenty of books available today (both fiction and nonfiction) that examine the end times. Many purport to offer specific details and dates about impending events referenced in Daniel and Revelation. Read or review some of these resources, do some digging and research in Christian books, and study what others believe about the prophecies. Decide what you believe or affirm why you believe what you do.
 - *You can list these thoughts on page two of your study binder titled Application under Session Seven.*
- Invite God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've previously noted. Be honest about your desires and fears, consider writing them down.